

HOME NEWS

BL gives notice that it will impose pay offer from April 8By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

British Leyland began its latest crucial gamble on shop floor support yesterday by giving formal notice that it will impose its pay and conditions offer on the company's 85,000 car workers from April 8.

The company decided to go over the heads of union negotiators and implement its controversial pay and conditions formula from the first working day after Easter.

In a letter to the unions Mr Ray Horrocks, chief executive of BL Cars, gave a warning that after the breakdown of day-long negotiations last Tuesday "we have no practical alternative but to implement the proposals. We are giving you five days' notice of our intention to do so."

In a stern warning clearly designed to avoid industrial action, Mr Horrocks added: "We are seeking your cooperation and we want very much to avoid conflict at a difficult time. But we are making it clear that any action employees may take to prevent implementation will be dealt with firmly and those who cause disruption will be subject to disciplinary action."

The company hopes that there will be little shopfloor reaction despite the workforce's rejection of broadly the same offer in a ballot earlier this year.

Industry has a month's supply of steelBy Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Steel stocks have risen to more than four week's supply at present rates of production and the number of companies able to continue production without disruption well into next month, and in many cases beyond, has also increased, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

The employer's organization, which has been monitoring developments during the 12 weeks of the steel strike, said last night that during the last week stocks held by the principal consumers of steel had risen "fairly substantially".

It attributed the increase to the continued flow of imports, the resumption of deliveries from private sector steel companies and the continued use of "swoop shops".

The results of the survey, based on a sample of between 50 and 60 companies employing more than one million workers, will be seen by the Government and the British Steel Corporation as a vindication of their view that industry has maintained production at relatively high levels although much of the corporation's business has gone to foreign producers.

Steel stocks were at their lowest in the middle of last month, but have been edging steadily upwards. Output, however, has fallen slightly. A week ago industrial production was running at about 96 per cent of normal, but this week, according to the CBI, it has fallen to about 95.5 per cent, although that drop would have been influenced by the general reduction in demand.

Urban area aid scheme is inadequate

By Our Local Government Correspondent

A Government aid scheme for urban areas could be cut or even abolished, according to a consultative document issued by the Department of the Environment.

In a review of the traditional urban programme, the document says that while most projects under the scheme have been worthwhile, some 18 per cent have failed to meet the criteria set for the programme.

From 1963 to 1979, £62.4m was allocated for capital projects, and in that time 4,040 projects got help. Surveys showed that the scheme was bringing certain benefits. It was, however, inadequate to make a significant contribution to its own to the relief of deprivation in the many areas it assisted.

Nalgo hopes rise after three new settlements

The National and Local Government Officers' Association's hopes of a settlement in its national pay dispute improved yesterday as the union reported three more settlements with authorities, including Leicester City Council.

The possibility of fresh negotiations next week emerged after a meeting of the influential Local Authority Conditions of Service Advisory Board, which includes representatives of the employers' negotiators.

Nalgo said that the other authorities to settle yesterday were Gloucester City and North East Derbyshire Councils.

Only seven of the 456 local authorities in England and Wales have settled so far.

Nalgo is considering proposals to put more pressure on other authorities, including a one-day strike in April and industrial action by air traffic controllers over Easter.

At Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, 14 members employed by the district council were suspended yesterday for not handing rates work.

Militant says Lord Underhill was duped

By Our Political Correspondent

The offer, apart from minor modifications, is the one first put to union negotiators five months ago and yields in exchange for widespread changes in working practices basic increases of between 5 and 10 per cent and the opportunity of bonus earnings of up to £15 a week.

The management is likely to "deem" that those workers who turn up normally after the Easter break have effectively agreed to the terms attached to the pay formula, although that was not made clear in the letter yesterday.

Union officials expect that the basic increases will go into wage packets shortly afterwards, though it may take longer to process back pay ranging up to between £250 to £300 under the deal backdated to last November.

The implementation of changes in working practices will vary between sections of the company and are expected to be introduced at plant level over a period.

At their core are moves for inter-departmental and inter-trade flexibility and an end to key issues like manning levels are agreed jointly by management and local union officials.

Union officials are watching the position carefully. They added after Monday's breakdown that disruption was likely, though there have been no hard indications of unrest yet.

Farm prices increase 'unjustified'By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Food companies appealed to the Government yesterday to relax its opposition to higher farm prices on foods of which the EEC has surpluses.

The Food Manufacturers' Federation told the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: "As most commodities covered by the common agricultural policy are in surplus, there is no justification for any increase in farm prices."

But Mr James Callaghan and other senior party members agree with Lord Underhill that the existence, "buried deep within the party", of a faction which is devoted to changing the structure of society by revolutionary, not democratic methods, must be a handicap for Labour at elections and perhaps had the effect of losing the Labour Party many votes.

Getting something done about the Militant Tendency seems more complicated. Yesterday the party commission of inquiry, which is charged with making recommendations on the future, remained deadlocked.

Leaders of the federation, which represents the largest food companies in Britain, were concerned about reports from Brussels that the British Government was ready to concede increases in farm prices in return for a substantial cut in the British contribution to the Community budget.

The federation estimated that the rise of 2.4 per cent in farm prices recommended to ministers of the Nine by the European Commission would raise household food bills by more than £p in the pound.

"Surplus causes most expenditure under the CAP," it said. "The only way to reduce this expenditure is to reduce surpluses. One of the main ways of achieving this is to cut prices."

The federation was also worried by the commission's plan to raise protective tariffs against Community imports of maize, wheats of bread-making quality and durum wheat for pasta.

The federation regretted that the commission did not plan to cut the cost of importing long-grain rice, which had to be bought from the United States and Australia. "The commission's proposals have failed to take account of the interests and needs of consumers and food processors," it said.

Revised budget figure, page 4

Tory MP lists party's 'mistakes'By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Conservatives should avoid becoming the slaves of economic slogans and acknowledge that monetarism, so enthusiastically inscribed on some Conservative banners, was for others an alternative word for fascism. Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Horncliffe, said last night.

He said that the NEC had decided not to engage in a witch-hunt. At its last meeting it resolved to invite all pressure groups in the party to submit details of their rules, membership, sources of finance and objectives.

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NEWS

Harson y after fires

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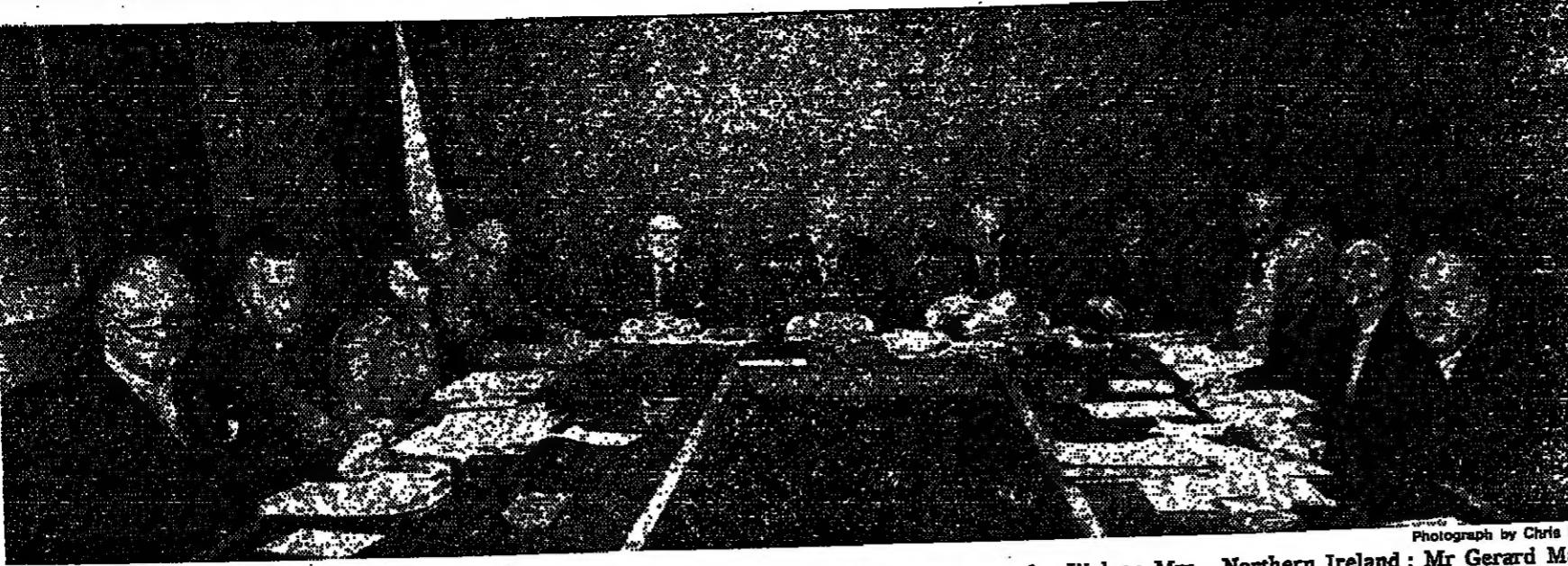
ment claims: "We there is widespread burning of holiday over the politicians say" that the campaign is aimed at the es of the wealthy, their language or

We oppose an in- ribly some people houses while 50,000 Wales are still wait- first home".

We hope that the campaign will inspire ; and miners and in Wales whose futures are being terribly".

ment first emerged 1960s and one of its that time, Mr John is jailed for seven 1970 on explosive a recent article.

wrote: "Members are still in each other but they again unless the le will them to do



BBC governors: The board of governors of the BBC at its fortnightly meeting yesterday at Broadcasting House, London, when it continued its discussion of the board of management's plan for cuts

of £130m over the next two years and a reduction of 1,500 staff. The board took into account representations from MPs and unions and letters to *The Times*. Those present yesterday were, from left: Sir John Johnston; Mr Alwyn Roberts,

National Governor for Wales; Mrs Stella Clarke; Mr George Howard; Mr Ian Trehowen, Director General; Sir Michael Swann, FRS; Chairman; Mr Mark Bonham Carter, Vice-Chairman; Lady Faulkner of Downpatrick, National Governor for

Northern Ireland; Mr Gerard Mansell, Deputy Director General; Professor Hugh Longuet-Higgins, FRS; Lady Serota; and Mr Roger Young, National Governor for Scotland. Absent were Lord Allen of Fallowfield and Mr Philip Chappell.

Photograph by Chris Ball

Heart used for unsuccessful transplant was not faulty

The heart given to Mrs Dorothy Hayward, who died after a transplant operation last month, was not faulty when it was put in, it was said at an inquest yesterday.

Complex chemical imbalances in her body fluids caused the heart to stop beating and she died in spite of strenuous and prolonged attempts by surgeons to revive her, a pathologist told Dr John Burton, the West London coroner.

Mrs Hayward's own heart and arteries were so badly damaged that she had had only a few weeks to live anyway, the pathologist said.

Mrs Hayward, aged 46, a widow, of Breamister, Dorset, was Britain's first woman heart transplant patient. She was given the heart of a man aged 20 who died after a road accident in Holland and she herself died only hours after the operation on February 18 at Harefield Hospital, Hillingdon.

It was widely reported after her death that the new heart body was noticed and surgeons

tried to correct it. During this procedure, "the heart suddenly stopped", Mr Yacoub said.

Surgeons opened her chest and squeezed the heart in an attempt to massage it back to life.

Dr Burton said that facilities at the hospital were adequate. "On balance we think that such changes that were found in the heart were the consequence of the resuscitation measures that were taken, rather than something that was done to the heart at an earlier stage."

"In the circumstances, rather than say that this was a natural death, I will record a verdict that this was a death by misadventure."

There was no alternative but to perform a transplant operation. The most important cause of death was really that the original heart was so badly diseased.

Harefield Hospital said last night that surgeons had devised better methods of dealing with chemical imbalance and these had been used during the last two transplant operations.

A low potassium level in her

body was noticed and surgeons

had to be strictly separated.

The police had successfully cast anyone who raised questions about them, the law, civil liberties and democratic rights in the role of the "subversive element".

Mr Jardine, strenuously denying any charge of racism levelled at the police, said that no one had tried more than the federation to improve race relations. Two seminars had been held on the subject and as long ago as 1974 its officials had spoken to every high commissioner concerned with race relations.

Community liaison officers had been set up in police forces, but the efforts of the federation did not mean that police would be deterred from carrying out their duties in the maintenance of law and order.

Noting that he and some chief officers had been criticised in Parliament, Mr Jardine said: "We took a decision in 1975 that it was time the police voice was heard on law and order". The professional voice had to be heard on every subject and "we are the professionals as far as law and order is concerned".

Criticising, among others, Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, Professor Hall says the police are beginning to shape public opinion, although it is critical for the

Police the shock troops of law and order society'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The police are the hard front, the pioneer corps, the disciplinary arm and the shock troops of the "law and order society", Professor Stuart Hall, professor of Sociology at the Open University, says in a Cobden Trust booklet published today.

"I have no wish to repeat here the terrifying tale of the use of police power to contain and constrain, and in effect to criminalise, parts of the black population in our urban colonies."

"Not all the stories and rumours are, of course, true. Not all of them are traceable to racism within the local police forces."

"But when all the reasonable allowances have been made, this series of episodes leaves us with no other conclusion than that the police have undertaken whether willingly or not, to constrain by means which would not long stand up to inspection within the rule of law, an alienated black population and thereby to police the social crisis of the cities."

Criticising, among others, Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, Professor Hall says the police are beginning to shape public opinion, although it is critical for the

Eleven declare bids for TV franchises

By Kenneth Gossling

Eleven companies have disclosed publicly their intention to bid for the 15 franchises conferring the right to transmit television programmes under the aegis of the Independent Broadcasting Authority from the beginning of 1982. The closing date for bids is May 9.

Others may have submitted bids, but the authority has not disclosed their names. Bodies not already contractors which have signified their intention of bidding are:

Central Scotland: Better Scottish Television (chairman, Lord Kirkie Calder); Caledonian Television (chairman, Lord McElroy).

Lancashire: Lancashire Television (chairman, the Duke of Westminister); Merseyside Television Group (chairman, Sir Kenneth Thompson).

London: London Daytime Consortium; East Midlands Forum; Midlands Television.

Northern England: Northumbria Television (chairman, Mr Steven Watson); Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland and Independent Television (chairman, Lord Dunleath); chief executive, Mr Derek Bailey).

South-West: South-West Breakfast-Time Service (Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, Mr Peter Jenkins, Lord Lever).

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Patients should have access to their medical notes, the central Birmingham community health council said yesterday.

The proposal did not mean

that doctors would tell patients everything in detail the council said. Some patients preferred not to know.

"Many doctors are opposed to patients having a right to see their medical notes. This implies that there is something to hide. It also tends to increase some patients' sense of helplessness and ignorance."

"If doctors knew that patients could see their notes, they would inevitably be written differently. Notes would probably be shorter, more factual and less judgmental."

Critics had suggested that doctors needed to let off steam and write remarks such as: "The patient is a hypochondriac". If such an opinion had to be passed from one doctor to another, it could be expressed in a different form.

The British Medical Association said last night: "At best it would be unhelpful and at worst distressing for many patients, although there is nothing wrong with some sort of controlled access."

Doctors are urged to let patients see their notes

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

"Should a patient see this he or she would be the first to agree with it. It would be less likely that doctors would write: 'This woman is neurotic' or 'This patient is nuts', two examples taken from medical notes".

Medicine carried an aura of mystery and power for many people, particularly specialists such as surgery and paediatrics. The sense of mystery was only partly due to the fact that the medical profession was dealing with matters of life and death. It was also dealing with people when they were patients and who might feel helpless, dependent and sometimes fearful.

"In spite of these feelings people, healthy or ill, are better educated and generally more knowledgeable than ever before so they are more likely to question their doctor's opinion," the council said.

The British Medical Association said last night: "At best it would be unhelpful and at worst distressing for many patients, although there is nothing wrong with some sort of controlled access."

Carpet found in cupboard may fetch £120,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A large carpet woven in Britain before the mid-seventeenth century and which was found in Glamis Castle, Scotland, is to be auctioned by Sotheby's on April 17.

Fewer than a dozen examples of the carpet are known and it has great significance in the history of British craftsmanship.

The Victoria and Albert and the Royal Scottish museums are likely to seek funds to buy it, but Sotheby's believes that bids may reach between £80,000 and £120,000, which would be a near record price for a carpet.

The carpet is being sold by the trustees of the 16th Earl of Strathmore's 1954 settlement. The present Lady Strathmore found it in an attic cupboard and laid it in the drawing room of the Great Hall of Glamis Castle.

The carpet is 17ft by 7ft 11in and in remarkably good condition. It is one of six outstanding textiles which will be exhibited at Sotheby's Edinburgh office, 112 George Street, from next Monday to Friday.

Warning of 190ft load on A1

A load weighing 340 tons and 190ft long, which is being moved from Yorkshire to Hartlepool, Cleveland, will affect traffic on the A1 for the next few days. West Yorkshire police state.

British Gas has rejected the council's call for detailed figures to justify the increases and the council says that many consumers will not know that charges have gone up until they ask for repairs to be done.

The last 14 patients at the hospital, which is to close because of spending cuts, were removed when seven ambulances broke through a nurses' picket line and took them to other hospitals in the area.

PARLIAMENT, March 21, 1980

MPs' plea for help to bring life back to the rural communities

House of Commons

After seven years of utter gloom there was now a Government sympathy towards the countryside and determined to put right the rural inequalities of the last Government. Mr Marcus Kimball (Gainsborough, C) said when he opened a debate on the rural areas.

He said the Government had already made substantial steps to sustain the development of agriculture, particularly its devaluation of the green pound three times in eight months.

Agriculture needed a non-agricultural population to sustain villages and make rural services viable. It was no longer acceptable to have residential environments built by intensive livestock units being dumped down the middle of villages. The time had come to see that all changes in the use of agricultural buildings would have to be subject to planning permission.

Isolated public houses were being closed by the brewers because they were rationalised. Garages were being forced to buy small quantities of petrol on the spot market and charge more for that petrol at the standard price. Such commercial premises could be helped by a rural rating difference, although primarily the person and the parish could not be helped in this way.

The Church of England neglected the rural areas at its peril as this was where its strength lay. Young, well-trained professional men were needed.

They would have to look again at the possible rating of agricultural properties for two-thirds of the year.

Mr Gérard Howell (Cardigan, L) was having a serious effect on rural communities. Government offices meant the sub-post offices and village shops were threatened.

Young people were drifting away to the cities and towns. Villages throughout the country were in danger of becoming centres for weekend and holiday visitors with the occasional old pensioner living his meagre existence with few services to sustain him. It was a bleak and depressing picture and one which would become a reality if nothing was done to halt the decline.

Many small businesses in rural areas employing up to 10 people were worried about present high interest rates. These businesses had been the backbone of rural communities for generations and should be given a tax break to encourage them to remain in the area.

The way in which part policy had been carried out had a most destructive effect on the country scene.

Farmers were the custodians of the countryside. Aesthetics and economics did not usually go together. If farmers were to protect the beauty of the countryside, the public must be compensated for the loss of their land and the services it provided.

Mr Tom King (West Devon, C) said that one of the reasons village life had become harder and more difficult was the coal strike in recent years and they were uppermost in the Government's mind. The Government had made clear its determination to re-allocate those problems by the way it distributed the rate support

Mr John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyne, L) said despite the problems in the debate rural communities would suffer greatly under the present Government.

The more remote an area was the more it must depend for its survival on public provision of houses, schools, hospitals, police, and fire services. All the services on which they depended were provided without any thought for the profit motive.

Mr John Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyne, L) said it should be possible for the Maplin Services Commission or the employment services to circulate to those in isolated rural communities jobs available, so they could be on the move when it came to looking about opportunities and being able to apply for them.

Mr Tom King (West Devon, C) said the problems of the rural areas had been headed in recent years and they were uppermost in the Government's mind. The Government had made clear its determination to re-allocate those problems by the way it distributed the rate support

The Government would shortly issue a circular to local planning authorities on the charge of use of redundant buildings, asking for a more sympathetic approach to the threat non-farmers face which can grow industries and employment to village communities, enabling redundant farm buildings to be brought back into useful and valuable life.

It was hoped that the Transport Bill would provide the sort of expenditure that might help to tackle rural transport problems.

They were familiar with the problems of village schools. The Government never closed them. It was the decision of the local education authority to determine what happened to the schools.

Some of the rural companies were a problem. There was the possibility of an investigation into this. The Government had been active with the oil companies and achieved an assurance to help the position of local garages over the question of supplies.

The premature announcement about rural post offices which had not been made by the Government—was singularly unhelpful and worrying, particularly to the elderly. There was a consideration of sub-post masters and the services they provided would be recognised.

Retirement pensioners would remain free to draw their weekly pension from the post office. That was a guarantee.

The Debate was concluded.

The Setting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 2.30pm.

Green Line fares up

Lady Erne petition

The divorce petition of Lady Erne, aged 41, appears in a list of forthcoming undefended cases due to be heard in London soon. Lord Erne, aged 42, lives at Crom Castle, Newtown Butler, Co Fermanagh.

SHORT NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE FORWARDING AGENTS

AN AIRFREIGHT CONSIGNMENT OF COMPLETE BALES

TO BE AUCTIONED IN FORWARDING AGENTS' WAREHOUSE

NEAR HEATHROW AIRPORT

HIGH QUALITY VALUABLE

PERSIAN, AFGHANISTAN

AND OTHER EASTERN HAND KNOTTED CARPETS & RUGS

This further auction has been forced by the present

situation following unresolved events in certain of

the countries of origin, on the parties in Switzerland

financing the movement of all categories of hand

knotTED CARPETS from countries of origin

Auction on site where bales are held

WEST EUROPE

Catalan conservatives beat Madrid-based parties in regional poll

From Harry Delibes

Madrid, March 21

The Catalan conservative leader, Señor Jordi Pujol, who was once court-martialled and imprisoned for singing a song about Catalonia in the presence of General Franco — today scored a victory over candidates of the main Spanish parties in the election for the regional parliament of Catalonia.

Señor Pujol's party, Convergence and Union, won 43 of the 135 seats in the regional Parliament, leaving Spain's ruling Centre Democratic Union a poor fourth with 18 seats, behind the Socialists (33 seats) and Communists (25).

It was the first regional parliamentary election in Catalonia since 1932.

The surprising strength of Señor Pujol's regional-oriented party and the relatively poor showing of the main parties were in a sense similar to the results of the regional election earlier this month in the Basque country where strong nationalist sentiment weakened the Madrid-based parties.

The outcome of the Catalan election virtually assures the presidency of the Generalitat, the Catalan regional government, to Señor Pujol, who will also head the regional Parliament.

The election returns are likely to bring even more dismal

news for the Catalan Socialist Party, which is affiliated to the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, than for the Centre Democratic Union, the party of Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister. Señor Pujol's party is expected to ally itself in the regional Parliament with the Centre Democratic Union and with the Republican Left of Catalonia, rather than with either the Socialists or Communists.

There will be no official word on parliamentary coalitions before Monday at the earliest, when the executive committee of Convergence and Union is to meet.

One aspect of the voting,

which took place yesterday, was the strong showing of the Andalusian Socialist Party which won two seats in the Parliament of Catalonia receiving 2 per cent of the vote. Its support came from workers who moved from the southern region of Andalucía, which itself failed to win home rule in a referendum there on February 28.

Shortly after learning of his victory, Señor Pujol said that the results should be a warning to the Madrid government that Catalonia can no longer be moved like a pawn at Madrid's wish, and that Madrid should move further in the matter of devolution, acting with sincerity.

Italian magistrates demand protection from terrorists

From John Earle

Rome, March 21

Rome law courts were at a standstill today as magistrates discussed their demands for better protection.

Their morale has been shaken by the terrorist murders of three magistrates in four days this week. Magistrates attended a "sit-in" meeting which started yesterday and lasted all night.

Meanwhile three leading trade unions here have published a joint letter to all political parties expressing concern at the effects of terrorism on the country.

Whatever party leads the new government, it must not adopt "the methods of postponing

problems and of the non-government of the situation". But the unions said, it must be capable of giving an adequate response to the problems of Italian society.

Union leaders are angry by a ruff yesterday from Signor Francesco Cossiga, the retiring Prime Minister, who told them that all negotiations affecting employees in public service were suspended pending the formation of a new government.

The unions listed tax evasion as a priority for the new government. Other priorities included employment, energy, agriculture, transport, reform of nationalized industry, reorganization of labour exchanges, and police reform.

Europe falters on boycott

Strasbourg, March 21.—Only Britain, Holland and Portugal voiced support for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics at a meeting of ministers of sport from the 21 member states of the Council of Europe, today.

Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Cyprus took a strictly neutral line, saying they would leave the decision to their national Olympic committees and not try to influence them one way or the other.

The other 14 member states also said the decision is up to their Olympic committees, but have not decided whether they will influence them for or against a boycott.

Even two of the countries

listed by the American State Department as officially in favour of a boycott—Norway and Luxembourg—turned out to be undecided.

M. Jean-Pierre Soisson, the French Minister of Sport, was

the most forceful in arguing against a boycott, saying it would be an intolerable snubbing of sports and politics. He quoted from earlier Council of Europe resolutions against mixing the two.

The French placed themselves in the camp that has not yet decided whether or not to influence in Olympic committees' decision, and some detected in this a slight softening of the French position.

It would be an extraordinary development if the South African Government were to even consider the release of Mr Mandela, who is serving a life sentence for sabotage. But it is significant that black leaders in South Africa think they are in a strong enough position to challenge the Government on the issue.

But it is also significant that the South African opposition party, normally quick to adopt a popular cause, has not yet joined the "Free Mandela" bandwagon. It is aware that, although change is in the air, feelings about the events of the early 1960s when South Africa distinctly faced violent revolution—run deep.

The opposition is also preparing itself for the early election, says Mr Peter Botha, the Prime Minister, might call any time. So this is hardly a violent revolution—run deep.

Even in New York City, where the large Jewish population was expected to punish Mr Carter for his vacillating Middle East policy, the President has 55

per cent to Mr Kennedy's 37.

The poll showed that Mr Kennedy's character, and particularly the Chappaquiddick incident, is still deeply factors among voters.

More than two in one, the 800

Democrats polled found Mr Carter more dependable.

It also showed that Mr Carter's weakness remains the Middle East. Sixty per cent of Jewish voters, and 44 per cent of all Democrats, believed he did not tell the whole truth when declaring that the recent American United Nations vote condemning Israel was a mistake.

A Government spokesman

said today that as the country

was still under emergency

make this disappear.

President Carter's policy towards the Middle East is once again under sustained attack on Capitol Hill. Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, testified to the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday and to the House committee today to defend the Administration's policy and its vote on a Security Council resolution in Israel three weeks ago.

The White House and the State Department were accused of deceit and ineptitude. Mr Vance was repeatedly asked to retract altogether from supporting the United Nations condemnation of Israel's settlements in the occupied territories, and steadfastly refused to do so.

He denied that the Administration withdrew its approval of the resolution 48 hours after voting for it because of pressure from Israel and its supporters and insisted that he was to blame for the failure in communication which led to the original American vote.

The United States should have abstained because the resolution mentioned Jerusalem as occupied territory.

He said that the United States severely criticized Israel's settlement policy and wanted to

Doctor must pay for failure of sterilization

From Our Correspondent

Berlin, March 21

The Federal Court in Karlsruhe has ruled that if a woman gives birth after a doctor has attempted to sterilize her, she shall be liable to pay maintenance for the child until it reaches 18.

However, to make a successful claim, the parents must prove that the birth upset the planning of their family.

The court ruled that an unsuccessful sterilization amounted to bodily injury for which indemnity could be claimed. It found that even if the child was not wanted its arrival did not represent damage, thus ruling that the child itself could not be the subject of a legal claim, only its maintenance costs.

Maintenance costs for a child are on a sliding scale according to its age and provide for monthly amounts of DM188 to DM270 (labour £47 to £68). If such sums do not cover the cost of the child's upbringing because of the high standard of living of the parents, the balance must be made up by the parents.

Leading article, page 13

make this disappear.

President Carter's policy

would be always ignored.

can vote, condemn the Security Council much more effectively.

The decision follows a resolution taken when the US voted to approve a settlement in the Hebrew.

Senators, particularly

Jacob Javits of New York, wanted Mr Vance to a Security Council resolution that was far from being adopted.

Israel's friends were perturbed. The US did indeed signal its American policy, but it was half withdrawn.

3. The United States

subsequently ratified a degree further

Israel and towards the

Vice-President Walter Mondale and Mr Robert

Carter's director, both stated

that America's set

President Carter's

settlement policy could be explained.

Mr Shamir replied:

"On receiving visitors, I tell

make this disappear.

Saturday Review

One last trip

by Richard Holmes

Across his diary ledger for 1920, F. Scott Fitzgerald scrawled: "The crash! Zelda and America". For Fitzgerald, then 34, the two catastrophes—psychological and economic—were mysteriously involved. He coined a phrase to link them: "Emotional bankruptcy". It meant that the party was over, the summer palaces were closing, it was time to go home.

The Fitzgeralds embarked on one last trip to Europe in the brittle spring of 1929. They docked at Genoa and took a set of rooms at Bertolini's, with a green tile bathroom suite and a big brass bedstead, where Zelda obsessively practised her ballet exercises. Scott began a story called *The Rough Crossing* about a successful American playwright, a drunken lecher, and a heavy symphony band mid-Atlantic tempest.

Looking out at the night, Ezra saw that there was no chance for them unless she could make amends, propitiate the storm. It was Adrian's love that was demanded of her. Deliberately she unclashed her pearl necklace, lifted it to her lips—for she knew that with it went the freshest, fairest part of her life—and flung it out into the gale. Such gestures still came easily to him, to everyone. The story was rapidly published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a fashionably illustrated weekly for smart, East Coast families, which paid him \$3,500. This was then Fitzgerald's standard fee, making him the highest-earning pure fiction writer in America, with an annual income comfortably over \$30,000 and still climbing.

They motored leisurely up through the Riviera in an open Renault towards Paris, turning aside as far is Villefranche in pursuit of *salade nicoise*. To his agent back in New York, Harold Ober, Scott wrote: "We arrive in Paris April 1st... The Rough Crossing has been plus I've almost finished another. I hope to God the novel will be done this summer." But it wasn't, because first of all there had to be The Crash. The Fitzgeralds' whole world had to break down with it and a new kind of writing had to emerge from the ruins, with a new kind of story to tell: not Boom, but Bankruptcy.

The strange thing was that Scott Fitzgerald seemed to see it coming from a long way off. Even before *The Great Gatsby*, his least-remembered novel of 1922, Fitzgerald had plotted out the moral destruction of Anthony and Gloria Patch, an exemplary couple of the Jazz Age, artists by temperament but useless shimmering socialites by force of economic circumstance.

I wish *The Beautiful and Damned* had been a maturely written book, Fitzgerald said long after, "because it was all true. We ruined ourselves—I have never honestly thought that we ruined each other".

Many of the forgotten newspaper interviews that he gave at the very height of his success also pointed unexpectedly to some imminent catastrophe of a more than personal nature. Ambushed once by a young reporter from *New York World* among the ported glories of the Plaza Hotel in 1927, he was congratulated on the Broadway version of *Gatsby* and politely questioned about his Hollywood script for United Artists' latest *Flapper Girl*. Constance Talmadge rumoured to be entitled *Lipstick*. By way of reply, Fitzgerald started talking fluently about Nietzsche, Dostoevsky and Dostoevsky's *Decline of the West*. "The idea that we're the greatest people in the world because we have the most money in the world is ridiculous," he announced.

"Wait until this wave of prosperity is over! Wait ten or fifteen years! Wait until the next war in the Pacific or against some European combination!... It is impossible for an American to have a real credo yet... There has never been an American tragedy. There have only been great failures."

The reporter was genuinely puzzled, then disbelieving then slickly amused. He confided to his readers: "Here I was interviewing the author of *This Side of Paradise*, the voice and embodiment of the jazz age; its product and its beneficiary, a popular novelist, a movie scenarist, a dweller in the gilded palaces, a master of servants, only to find F Scott Fitzgerald himself, shorn of these associations, forecasting doom, death and damnation to his generation in the spirit, if not in the rhetoric, of your typical spitoon philosopher. In a pleasant corner of the Plaza tea garden he sounded like an intellectual Samson prophesying the crumbling of its marble columns."

Yet the cracks were everywhere in the late Twenties for those who had every to see. It is true that Fitzgerald was not really capable of a sustained social or intellectual analysis, like his old friend from Princeton University, the critic Edmund Wilson, then at the *New Republic*. Perhaps he did make a faintly comic prophet of the cocktail hour. But as an artist, in the pale hung-over mornings of endless silent hotel rooms, he could glimpse the ominous shapes and put them down.

In the first of his post-Crash essays, published for a few hundred dollars in *Scribner's Magazine*, he would write: "By 1928 Paris had grown suffocating. With each new shipment of Americans spewed up by the Boom the quality fell off, until towards the end there was something sinister about the gayest worlds we could find. This *au fond* is what really worries me..."

But Fitzgerald also saw the same sickness and emptiness in those around him. He took to quizzing and questioning the rich friends, the Gerald Murphys, with a detached "superclique scrutiny", as if he had suddenly stopped being old acquaintances and become rare members of a dying species. He can't expect anyone to like or stand a continual feeling of analysis, and sub-analysis, and criticism on the whole unfriendly, wrote Sara Murphy, and stopped inviting him round.

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Good Food

Playing an exotic role

go to restaurants, some for the food, others for the atmosphere. It would be a conundrum for each of us (which are some) to be trebled, as in a farcical fashion. Brasserie.

different rules apply ad genre of restaurants as oriental ones—mostly in recent weeks include well-known soups (50p) such as santeas (julienned chicken in spicy coconut milk) and soto madura (chicken with egg, vermicelli and vegetables), crisp parmesan (potato cake), vibrantly red but mild sambal udang (fresh large prawns with fresh-pineapple pieces), and the sweet called ice alpukat based on puree avocado.

If you cannot identify a taste, sesame oil, peanut, black pepper (the rotted salt-fish of South-east Asia) or coconut may well have something to do with it.

Equally equatorial is The Equator, in another busy Soho street, which even has the equivalent of a Singapore satay stall run by a girl who doubles as receptionist. The result seemed fresher and crispier than it sometimes is when satay has to take its turn with other orders in the main kitchen, and more complex cooked dishes in Nonya style are welcome. Try one of Henry Tan's fish dishes in tamarind sauce, perhaps, or ayam tempra (chicken in soybean sauce with onions and chili, £1.70) which was delicious if you picked out the huge pieces of fresh red and green chillies rather than swallowing them and hoping for the rojak salad and sago sweets to soothe you down.

Besides, since The Times readers often wonder where they can obtain afternoon tea in central London, it is worth mentioning that "tea and Singapore delicacies are served from 3pm to 6pm".

Outside London, Oxford (presumably) is equally privileged, for Echel Ov's very small and simple Indonesian-Malay Munchy Munchy, near Nuffield College, is a place "which any poor student can afford to enjoy" (according to a letter from one of them).

The secret is a comparatively small daily menu scrawled on a white board which allows Mrs Ov to do no more than she can manage herself: perhaps gosht ka raita, tender, mashed any-colored braised beef whose thick, oily sauce is a giant with cardamom, cloves, cumin and mustard seed, or pork with tamarind and ginger, or roast duck with ginger and wine, or leeks with prawn and a sauce strongly flavoured with turmeric and coconut.

"I had their vegetarian dish and sat there slowly and happily picking an artichoke to pieces and dipping it in a spicy fresh tomato and onion sauce; it made a nice change from the law library, where I ought to have been instead." Drink can be taken in, but most people settle for one of the various reeks.

The Nepalese, too, seem to have settled both in London and outside. (Next year, Afghan?) Guide inspectors have recently found the Manohar family's Gurkhas Tandoori in Warren Street unpretentious with engaging "even giggly" service, though only a few dishes distinguish the place from the usual north Indian genre. Even the chicken bhuna and the minced beef, tomato and fresh coriander dish called bhak sa ka (£1.70) can be found elsewhere in London. But the keema naan was exceptionally light and fragrant and the aloo kerao kachar distinctive—a very sour, clinging kind of potato pickle with chilli and sesame oil.

"They bring your meal simultaneously on a trolley, which saves on service, but the food would be hotter if its arrival were phased."

Hari Karki has gone one better by settling in Aldershot—a piquant development. Kipling never envisaged—to give today's subalterns a taste of what their Indian Army grandfathers might have experienced.

Mr Karki, an ex-Gurkha engineer, imported a chef from Kathmandu, Nepalese Cuisine, and it is possible here to order a special Nepalese thali (set meal on a tray) that begins with steamed momos (dumplings filled with spiced minced pork) followed by the same potato pickle, lemo-masuri lamb curry, and rice and vegetables.

Tori ko gundruk (£1.25) is described as "a typical Sherpa dried vegetable dish": just how this is distinguished from the freeze-dried flakes that litter occidental youth hostels is not explained, but here too the more familiar randoori naan and lamb curries, channa (chick peas), naan and samosas are also worth ordering.

Finally, for the growing number of people who find that west and south Indian vegetarian foods suits their taste as well as it suits their pocket, Croydon now has in Mumhaville a place just as good as the longer-established north and central London examples. Kathi's Tank's cooking delighted not only the Guide's inspector, but a vegetarian Goan who is herself an accomplished cook.

Note the bhelpu (60p) "like

a crunchy, chewy salad mixed

with a hot and sweet dressing".

The kachori pastries filled with spiced mung dal and served with a fresh chutney, and the de luxe thali (£3.80) which fills you up with a taste of many things.

Drink lager at considerably less than central London Indian restaurants charge for these metallic brews, or the juice of mango, passion fruit or sugar cane for a familiar price.

Remember too that most Indian

and related places serve the yoghurt drink called lassi, which is very soothing if you have swallowed a chilli in error.

Details:

Rasa Sayang, 10 Frit Street, London, W1. Tel: 01-734 8720.

Open noon-midnight. (1 am Friday and Saturday).

Now the scene has

shifted, and for the

Malayans has re-

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Travel

Looking ahead to the British invasion of Miami... and a timely word about jet lag

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ante" schemes.
this will lead to
tions remains to

be seen, but if it does then the
holiday companies have only
themselves to blame. If the
original brochure prices had
been set at a more realistic
level then the inevitable sur-
charges—or a greater portion
of them—could have been
absorbed.

However, I shall not dwell
on that or, indeed, on inclusive
holidays, as information about
them is readily obtainable from
any competent travel agent. Let
me rather dwell on Miami itself
—or that small part of it I was
able to see.

The first thing that needs to
be said is that Miami and Miami
Beach are two quite separate
places. The latter is a sub-
tropical island connected to the
mainland (Miami) by a number
of causeways; off some of these
artificial islands and the pre-
viously mentioned palatial
homes have been built.

The great joke about Miami
Beach used to be that its beach
was largely non-existent, but
that cannot be said today, for
millions of dollars have been
spent to recreate a wide stretch
of sand and protect it from
erosion. For anyone who has
visited Miami Beach in the
past, the transformation is
startling.

There are countless hotels
along the seven and a half miles
seafront, giving a first impres-
sion of a Benidorm or Torremol-
linas that has been given a
course of hormones. On this
occasion I stayed at the
Desaville Hotel, fairly middle
of the price range establishment.
As in similar United States
hotels, its bedrooms and bath-
rooms were of ample size, air
conditioned and with colour
television, and its public rooms
overwhelming.

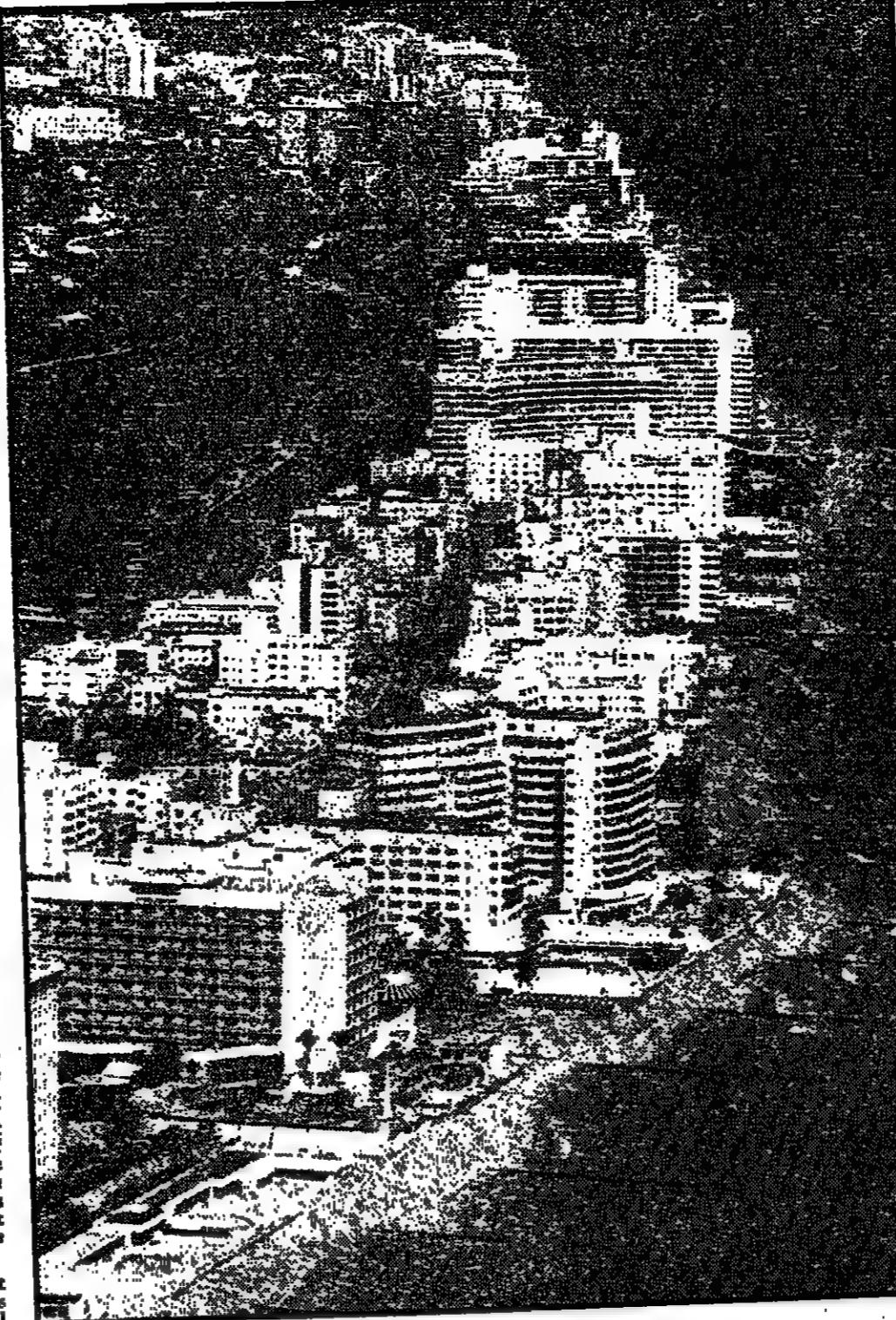
The pattern of holidaymaking
in America is that one tends to
eat little in one's hotel—the
coffee shop, breakfast, perhaps,
being the only meal taken there,
although knowledgeable travel-
lers tend to leave the hotel for
even this modest meal, making
instead for the nearest chain
dining place.

Miami Beach is crammed with
such fast food establishments
where one may eat quickly and
cheaply. I have said before, and
I repeat here, despite opinions
to the contrary, that one may
eat well in such establishments,
paying less than one pays in
Britain, getting better quality
and quantity and in far more
hygienic surroundings.

As for evening meals, I
sampled half a dozen establish-
ments. Some were too expensive
to justify any kind of recom-
mendation, for no matter how

But the airboats do not
operate within the boundaries
of the park proper and you will
certainly need far more than a
single day to come to any kind
of terms with the 2,188 square
miles of the Everglades. You
could, if so inclined, rent a
houseboat for a few days,
though I cannot see that option
being taken up by many of
Miami Beach's customers.

As in most parts of the United
States of America, it is com-
paratively easy to obtain accom-
modation as one travels around
Florida—especially during the
summer, which is the tourist
off season, and especially if one
keeps slightly off the main
tourist routes. The cost of car



hire is also low compared with
European rates, and this no
doubt is a reflection of the
fierce competition between the
hiring companies. I used a
cheverre for a week, costing me

A British driving licence is all
you need, though as far as car
hire is concerned (and many
other aspects of trade in the
United States of America come
to that) you will find a credit
card extremely useful, if not
essential. I have heard from

several people of difficulties en-
countered when they could not
produce a credit card as proof
of identity or, more important,
as proof of solvency. Cash is a
suspicious commodity.

I shall be very interested in
the impact that Miami Beach
has on the many Britons who
go there this year. And I am
not referring merely to the sum-
mer climate, which will catch
many of them off-guard. It is a
resort that has had its ups and
downs and one that has been
closely identified with one sec-

tion of the American domestic
holiday market.

It has had visitors from
abroad, of course, but nothing
like the numbers or—dare one
say it?—the type who will be
going there in 1980. Miami

Beach will have an impact on
them right enough. And they,
of course, will have an impact
on Miami Beach. I don't think
that either will be quite the
same afterwards.

John Carter

Bridge

Time to be neutral

calls one defender
a greater menace
partner. In conse-
declarer often has
counting his win-
tumy has been ex-
he must neutral-
one control before
his long suit.
declarer West.

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Fred Emery

Backs to the Budgets

Mrs Thatcher last Tuesday nearly voted in favour of a £120 increase in child benefit. Inadvertently, of course. She swerved instinctively towards the "aye" lobby in the Commons when she spotted four Conservative MPs there, but was sharply headed off when it was realized that they were rebels voting with the Labour Opposition. Coming so soon after the House of Lords defeat for the Government over school transport charges, the Prime Minister was not amused.

The unnerving quality of the incident illustrates the build-up for two budgets—Sir Geoffrey Howe's on Wednesday, and the great row over Britain's EEC budget contribution resuming a few days afterwards in Brussels. Conservatives are faced with distinct dilemmas, no less acute for being different. They do, after all, champion their claim to be the European party as well as the party of the family.

The still simmering backbench revolt over child benefit goes to the heart of the politics involved in administering the dose of nasty medicine due in the Chancellor's Budget. The Government, acknowledging in Sir Keith Joseph's arresting phrase, that "we probably lost the first six months" in office coming to grips with its inheritance, seems now well bent on spooning down all the tough measures at once.

Several Ministers convey agreement, if foreboding, that there is

little sense at this stage trying to soften the blow—although, in the odd way we run government, no Cabinet member outside the Prime Minister's immediate Treasury team seems to be aware of what the Budget actually contains. They will be "told" at the pre-Budget Cabinet.

Public spending will at last be cut heavily, and the poor and the unemployed will have to take their cuts along with the rest. The long heralded intention to "de-index" most social and supplementary benefits, and to remove the earnings-related element from unemployment benefit, go undenied; in plain language it means that payments will be reduced in real terms because they will no longer be kept in line with the increase in prices.

The notion that all this can be contemplated without political relief or counterbalance, implicitly weighing on manifesto commitments, is what has astonished the possibly 50-strong group of Tories committed to increasing child benefit. If Sir Geoffrey announces no more than a 75p increase there will be deep frustration.

This is not simply a question of the "wets" having no stomach for the battle against inflation. A party divide of course exists, with a sizeable element believing that the Government itself is "wet"—witness the recent leading article in *Crossbow* questioning "Has our tough new Tory government failed already?" On the issue of child benefit, an interest-

ing alliance of young liberal-wing Tories with some right-wingers has sprung up. What they need above all, for their own voters, is something to help the medicine go down.

Their commitment to maintaining child benefit at least at its April, 1979 £4 value would require tax November an increase to at least £5.20; this sounded at times close to an ideology—of beating the "why work?" syndrome. If child benefit is not increased in line with inflation then it will remain that child support will be less for the working family than it is for the unemployed. The argument has been made endlessly by Conservatives.

Some of the campaigners have told me that they live in hope of persuading the Chancellor, even at the eleventh hour; others that they see no hope, and that they will have to vote against the Budget. The Lords here will be of no avail.

My own reckoning is that they have little hope of a change of heart in the Treasury at this stage. The dominant group of economy ministers seems convinced that we must batten down for another tough year before things begin to get better. Did not the Prime Minister "trust that we shall be out of the wood in two or three years" in her interview with *Die Welt*? Do not burgeoning North Sea revenues beckon next year?

Indeed there is another, untrumpeted message, that things may already have turned the corner. Again quoting from an extraordinary and

fascinating radio interview in the BBC *Analysis* programme that got little notice during my recent convalescence it was put thus:

"Sir Keith Joseph: . . . What is not visible is that all over the country new businesses are coming into existence in new fields. Mary Goldring: Cross your heart? Sir Keith: Cross my heart; in small numbers, perhaps, but what astonishes and delights me is the evidence that there is business vitality, despite all the discouragement."

Sir Keith went on to hope that the 17 per cent minimum lending rate would be "very temporary"; that public expenditure cuts would lead to a "systematic fall in inflation that will start late this year, and will begin to have fairly significant effects next year . . . Clearly, be but patient awhile.

This theme of holding on until relief comes is not one which particularly helps secure our case at Brussels. There we must insist on equity, and equity now. But many in the Cabinet, and still the majority of Conservatives in the Commons, are appalled at the prospect that they are helping to wreck the EEC after spending much of their political lives trying to join it.

The key to a solution, and the one leader our Ministers seem unsure of dealing with, is President Giscard d'Estaing. No one is going to say it publicly beforehand, but his domestic political problems in France are appreciated. And there is some willingness to settle outstanding

issues with him at the same time as Britain's budget problem—provided no crude horse-trading, or trade-off, is suggested.

If, for some reason best known to himself, President Giscard is determined that Britain shall be offered no more than a derisory sum, then we are in for a very difficult period.

The decision that we would then

"have to consider" withholding

Britain's VAT-related contributions

is meant to be taken seriously.

But more likely is the offer of a sum that will test the Government's judgment. Clearly it is not going to be politically acceptable in Britain for Mrs Thatcher to come home with the half a loaf she has already refused. What is acceptable? £200, £300, off our net contribution?

The all-party political support Mrs Thatcher is likely to get from the Commons on Monday is also

reacherous.

Some in the Labour Party would love to set her up for a fall which could, in Mr Roy Mason's words, be the spark that set off the chain reaction for withdrawal.

The now-or-never approach, so

obvious in the run-up to Dublin, is again being seriously pursued by Mrs Thatcher's helpers. Some defusing of expectations. In the coming week

might be no bad thing if, as seems in the cards, it will take another summit after this one to get the kind of constructive agreement we say we are seeking. Battles of the budget, domestic or foreign, rarely provide any winners.



David Sexton of United: not upstaged.



Malcolm Allison City: departure

The millions that cannot buy success

Among the many doubles-alecypocalypses of Manchester City Football Club's spending habits is one concerning their talent spotter who was sent to watch a young player at a Fourth Division club and sent back a report saying: "He was not better than the rest." The reply was said to be: "Buy them all."

The curious aspect of this is that the chairmanship of Peter Allison Manchester City have worked harder at getting transfers than any other English club. Mr Swales, a severing man who put into his work at Molineux the did into his radio vision businesses. He is a full-time admiral also serving as a Foot-council councillor, and sonal interest shows a scenes. To remain friends, a Press that and necessarily criminal baffling activity. The reply was said to be: "Buy them all."

City have attracted such stories by arriving at today's 100th derby match with Manchester United in danger of relegation to the Second Division after spending well over £4m on players in less than 15 months.

Red account

Manchester City appear to have thrown good money after bad, and that adage may find support on the terrace, but in purely financial terms they have only recently come out of intense transfer activity with a red account. Until the signing this month of Reeves from Norwich City for £125,000, the dealings undertaken by Malcolm Allison since he returned to the club in January 1979 showed that he had sold nine players for £2,625,000 and bought nine for £3,246,000. The deficit, on unoffical figures, was £621,000, or the price of a moderately promising Second Division player.

Such is the outward absurdity of the transfer market that City seem to have contributed to the spiral by making that last remark into one of the more disturbing facts of football life. They paid £756,000 for one Mick Robinson who came into the category of a moderately promising young Second Division forward for whom Mr Allison's first offer was reported to be £350,000. The extra £406,000 was described by the general manager, Tony Book, as "just backing your own judgement."

While upholders of the transfer system maintain that the money remains in football, and certainly a large proportion of the deals involve previous unfinished business between the clubs concerned, the rate at which Manchester City have bought and sold since Mr Allison's arrival has been out of the ordinary.

The reasons for this financially surrounding activity that has seen numerous team changes and such bizarre features as a second XI team at nearly £2m and some disastrous cup results against clubs who hardly knew where their next match ball was coming from, may not be far from the centre of today's local

Large cigt

Mr Allison was cle-
to get the best fit
of the essential en-
players, who were
selected, but if City
that Mr Allison's
large check suits, his
character would quite
stage the quiet, solemn
United, they were worn.

Today finds United
top of the First Divi-
City four from bottom

Liverpool, who lead
by six points, have not
an expensive player

months. Liverpool
buy replacement parts
by Chester City try to
the factory. Meanwhile

Sexton modestly and
the team successfully
middle ground, the
annoyance of all at Main
and the very slight irrit
those at Anfield.

Normal



Detail from a Byzantine icon of St Parasceve, painted about 1300.

A positively Byzantine affair in Birmingham

Have you ever worried about Pachomios and the idea of sanctity? Put it another way: what are your feelings about the deservedly unpublished life of St Eirene, the Empress? If such questions tickle your curiosity, this is the weekend for answering them. The Centre for Byzantine Studies at Birmingham University is holding its annual symposium for scholars from all over the world.

Over the past 14 years this merry and learned gathering has contributed largely to the revival of interest in the Byzantine both scholarly and popular. At the annual meeting of the Court of the University last month, the Vice-Chancellor, Lord Hunter of Newington, said: "Our Centre for Byzantine

Studies, which 15 years ago was nothing, today is a leading international centre which attracts hundreds of scholars from all over the world."

This year the theme is the Byzantine Saint. The 38 speakers from a dozen countries include for the first time a distinguished Soviet art historian and two Bollandists—members of a small and almost legendary community of Jesuit scholars in Belgium which has been devoted for more than three centuries to editing the Lives of the Saints (*Acta Sanctorum*).

The Bollandists began by publishing the Saints for January 1 in 1643. By 1940 they had reached Saints for December 1. There are cautious hopes

that they will reach the Saints for December 31, and so climb their holy Everest by the end of the century.

There will be papers on the pre-Christian and oriental origins of the Holy Man (and Woman); his hagiography (auto-hagiography and anti-hagiography); the Saint as a social, political, and economic phenomenon; the art, cult, relics, and celebration of the Wonderworking Saint; and the primitive variety of the Byzantine Saint, from the Forty Martyrs to the Holy Fool.

Old Byzantine hands will be surprised by the ingenuity of Professor Anthony Bryer. By 1940 they had not yet reached Saints for December 1. There are cautious hopes

remember with alarm the demonstration of Greek Fire, the re-enactment of the Coronation Ceremony of the Four Bards, and the loan of pictures from the Queen's collection at Windsor.

One year there was the authentic Serbian guslar, who did not turn up; another the player of the Pontic lyre, who did, an aged figure in baggy blue national costume, who accompanied proceedings on his primitive one-stringed fiddle.

This is the weekend that Byzantinists gather from around the world to examine our roots, our golden past, and to glory in a lively new emphasis of international scholarship in Birmingham.

Philip Howard

Tony Samstag

Lords of the desert, seeking the simple life

Letter from the Gulf

remains an intimate part of their soul; and they work off their nostalgia for it by driving out into it, in families, during the school holidays, to live the old simple life for a few days.

The emirs have taken to heart the lesson of Iran and try to ensure that their people do not become cut off from their roots or lose their identity through breakneck industrialization. They want to husband their resources against the time when their oil runs out and are already thinking of alternative forms of energy, including nuclear; and they are becoming acutely aware of environmental problems.

But on the whole, the Emirs appear to be wise and level-headed men who have escaped the temptations of *Folie des Grandes*, although they could afford them, and of power politics. They would rather, as our British ambassador told me, put their money in roads, schools, housing, and sewage than in armed forces.

The influence of the old protecting power, which once reigned supreme in the Gulf, is still strong—but more perceptible in some emirates than in

might call the oil rush is over, especially after the sharp increase in prices from 1973 on, mistakes continue to be made. A second international airport, the size of Heathrow, is about to be opened at Abu Dhabi, although there are several already in relatively small areas, along with a stadium to seat 70,000—which is just about the size of the native population. There are stories of ultra-modern hotels being put up which remain half empty for lack of clients.

At present, the Emirs appear to be wise and level-headed men who have escaped the temptations of *Folie des Grandes*, although they could afford them, and of power politics. They would rather, as our British ambassador told me, put their money in roads, schools, housing, and sewage than in armed forces.

The influence of the old protecting power, which once reigned supreme in the Gulf, is still strong—but more perceptible in some emirates than in

others. Kuwait struck me as more American, including the cars, although 44 Rolls-Royces were sold there last year and the embassy on the sea-front—"neo-Luxembourg," the ambassador called. It remains a fortress of Englishness. At Bahrain, on the other hand, the food and the service struck me as unmistakably British; at Qatar, the military continue to live up to the Sandhurst tradition and at Abu Dhabi the head of the royal guard is a British colonel.

These are only symbols. When it comes to bricks and mortar—that is to say, trade—pro-British sentiment is not enough to preserve the near-monopoly position British industry or business once had. They must now compete with equal terms with Japan, the United States, Germany and France.

As far as motor cars are concerned they have conspicuously failed to do so. In one emirate the British ambassador had to authorize his staff to buy Japanese or American cars because there are no spare parts or after-sales service for British cars.

The influence of the old protecting power, which once reigned supreme in the Gulf, is still strong—but more perceptible in some emirates than in

A matter of life and death

The way inflation has hit maternity and death grants...

To raise maternity from £25 to £85, restore value in terms of the price index, though not over index of prices paid related to baby products, cost approximately £50.

Raising death grant to which would theoretically restore the value it had in 1973 imposed on eligibility for grants. Men born before 1883, and women born July, 1888, do not qualify. Those born in the full decade qualify for only half grant.

In the nature of things are few of these old people alive, but many of those who survive are among the poor in the community. The fit of an adequate death grant would be balanced, but still imposed on the eligible.

If Sir Geoffrey wishes to strike a blow at the long-hard-hearted Treasury, and demand an increase for human life he might also consider a last dropping the age limit imposed on eligibility for grants. Men born before 1883, and women born July, 1888, do not qualify. Those born in the full decade qualify for only half grant.

Robin Ye
Consumer Correspondent

Charles Hargrove



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ATKINS KEEPS ON TRYING

It's Stormont conference in its penultimate session before adjourning until notice. The expectations are held that it will be fulfilled, which that an agreed form of government for Northern Ireland is still out of the conference, from the largest party in the Ulster Unionists, itself, has covered a round without actually to agree; and that says for the diplomatic the Secretary of State, argument at its heart is resolution then when first sat down by the political representation of the nationalist (Roman Catholic) minority that they be in government and of the unionist (Protestant) counterparts such arrangement. Even could be agreed or forged block would remain in the shambles is the tension.

next stage is for Mr to consult his colleagues forward proposals. It be Parliament's turn to say, and the Ulster party will have to be in. That party, which is presented as one of its objectives, Mr Atkins's conference that the only proper or discussion of that at that stage was the Commons. There might be something to be adopting the unusual

device of a parliamentary commission to examine the Government's proposals. The membership of a commission, unlike that of a select committee, need not be confined to members of Parliament; so the Northern Ireland parties which are not represented at Westminster could be brought in. This would not only have the advantage of bringing the argument into a different forum—when there is nothing more to be said, try saying it all over again in new surroundings. It would also admit, not before time English, Scottish and Welsh "dimensions".

Whatever the arrangements precisely, Mr Atkins is seeing to it that there is a full programme of talking ahead for all concerned. Talk however cannot conceal, and has doubtful power to alter, the facts of Ulster politics. The fact most relevant to present discussions is that the province of Northern Ireland contains a sizable minority which is the only kind of effective parliamentary politics it throws up, has its magnetic pole outside the province and the state, for reasons which are historical, religious and cultural in origin.

This fact accounts for the minority's politicians never winning power by election except in whatever administrative districts there are which coincide with its demographic preponderance. In most administrative districts and over the province as a whole they are permanently excluded from government. The same fact accounts for unionist

ATTER OF VERIFICATION

ogical Weapons Convention came into force, five days, was deservedly welcomed as the first unequivocal of disarmament—to abolish an entire of weapons from the military arsenals. Some tries have become full, it while 34 others have signed the convention, seeing not to develop, or stockpile bacteriological toxic weapons and to my which already exist. At review conference of convention that the only proper or discussion of that at that stage was the Commons. There might be something to be adopting the unusual

satisfactory means of making sure.

There have been calls in Geneva during the past three weeks of the review conference for a better machinery for dealing with complaints of violation. At present these have to be placed before the United Nations Security Council and countries which are party to the convention are pledged to cooperate in any resulting inquiry. It has been pointed out that permanent members of the Security Council could veto such an inquiry before it began. Soviet block delegates in Geneva are reported however to have opposed any change in this procedure.

The Sverdlovsk affair is not the first report of Soviet violation of the convention. This is not to say that previous, less specific charges which have appeared in the western press, have been well-founded. They have certainly been vigorously denied by the Russians. Two years ago, Moscow accused the United States of fomenting such rumours to pressure western allies into accepting the neutron bomb. This has now issued a not

dissimilar counter-claim against the United States in the wake of the Sverdlovsk incident.

Perhaps Soviet indignation is justified, but in the absence of any hard evidence either way suspicions are bound to linger, which could in time invalidate the spirit of trust and international confidence that the convention was supposed to foster. But if so they have only themselves to blame for refusing to accept the principle of international on-site verification of a country's compliance with the treaty's provisions.

Admittedly not even on-site inspection could offer a 100 per cent guarantee that a nation is complying with a convention whose terms are so easy to transgress. Bacteriological weapons remain an uncertain means of conducting warfare, being as they are so heavily dependent upon climatic conditions. But they are also easily produced, and easily hidden. Regular inspection by international arbitrators acting within the framework of the UN, could however go a long way to removing anxiety and distrust.

has not, so far as is known, brought the Ukrainian question on to the agenda of its periodical discussions with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Will the present Pope be bolder, will he give the members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church their desire and confer that papal title on Cardinal Slipyi or his successor? Their church is tolerated within the Polish state, though the Poles are not traditionally sympathetic to the Eastern rites. More to the point, Pope John Paul has been more open and more active than his predecessor in support of the Lithuanians who furnish the chief manifestation of open Roman Catholicism within the Soviet Union. It might be thought true to his character for him to make that solemn gesture of encouragement to the Ukrainians, whom history and their communist masters have so cruelly abused this century; and it would be good to see them so rewarded. But the gesture, because of the jurisdictional implication of the title of patriarch, would be sharply resented by the Soviet authorities, including those of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Vatican has not only its own relations with the East to consider, but also the risk of intensified persecution of the Ukrainian Catholics still there.

The title of patriarch is important because it implies territorial jurisdiction; it is therefore appropriate if applied to the head of a church based and active in the Ukraine (the exiles' claim) and inappropriate if applied to the head of a church which has been scattered (the Soviet claim). The Vatican has also been cautious in as much as it

of fisheries

for James Johnson, MP for

1st-upon-Hull, West (Labour).

ir leader and Mr Kershaw's

(March 11) both show the

effect that Government

over the years has had on

the sea fishing industry.

1977, the South Atlantic

Committee has been pre-

Government support for a

cial fishery survey in the

Atlantic, to ascertain the

ts for our distant-water fish-

in that area.

ill aware publication of the

Fish Authority's desk study

potential of the South Atlantic

was undertaken after the

in 1976 of Lord Shackleton's

economic Survey of the Falk-

lands. The survey indicated

yield of blue whiting along

the offshore waters of the

Islands and Burwood

night be equivalent of the

edings of fish in the United

trawlers are available, as

ader sadly points out. The

Atlantic Fisheries Committee

sking for subsidies or grants,

that in freely choosing a career in the service of the Crown will

agree to underwrite the costs of an expedition during the Antarctic summer of 1980-81. Time is running out for our deep-sea fishermen, and if Government delays mean that yet another year is lost, the trawlers that could be fishing British waters in the South Atlantic might end up on the scrap heap instead.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSON,

Chairman,

South Atlantic Fisheries Committee,

Falkland Islands Research and

Development Association,

2 Greycoat Place,

Westminster, SW1

Right to resign

From Sir Frederick Corfield, QC

Sir, Mr J. A. Murphy (March 18)

implies that in deciding whether or

not to participate in (or attend) the

Moscow Olympics, members of the

Civil Service and Armed Forces are

being denied freedom of choice.

It has evidently escaped Mr

Murphy's notice (as well as that of

Leaders of Civil Service Unions and

of some of the athletes themselves).

that in freely choosing a career in

the service of the Crown will

be denied freedom of choice.

Yours faithfully,

D. A. HEARN,

General Secretary,

Association of Broadcasting and

Allied Staffs,

K. ASHTON,

General Secretary,

National Union of Journalists,

2-15 Gooze Street, W1

March 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changes in divorce law

From Mr R. M. Powell

Sir, I must take strong issue with Lady Harris and Mrs Hilary Haspin about the unverified suppositions contained in their letter (March 8). In one contradictory sentence they claim that "the recent divorce reforms, whilst undoubtedly necessary to remedy the previous unsatisfactory state of affairs, have created a complex and confusing situation".

Firstly, the Divorce Reform Act, 1969, and the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, can hardly be called recent and whilst the state of affairs is even more unsatisfactory it can reasonably be said to be straightforward and crystal clear. Ask any man who has been through the courts and you will find that the law is rigidly against him in every respect concerning custody, the retention of the matrimonial home and maintenance. Neither can I agree that all parties to a divorce feel that insult has been added to injury, indeed many ex-wives may be delighted to find that despite their contribution to the break-up of the marriage their ex-husband must continue to support them for life with one-third of his gross salary. So, unlike these ex-wives there are thousands of men, dispossessed of their homes, deprived of their children and forced to pay a legal stranger, who are bitter at the insult piled upon injury.

No-fault law will never be understood or readily agreed to by fair-minded people whilst an ex-husband and his new wife have their standard of living severely and summarily reduced by regular payments to an ex-wife who has fully and fairly guilty of causing the destruction of the marriage. No-fault law could only be acceptable and equitable when a childless marriage is ended by the clean and final break to which so much lip-service has been paid. Eternal maintenance makes a tragic farcical mockery of our divorce legislation.

To these ladies of undoubted sincerity and goodwill I say, carry on your good work of counselling those about to contemplate divorce. However, with the present legislation the likelihood of many those involved in such proceedings being able to avoid legal wrangles and the consequent financial strain and drain is bound to be minimal. Also please remember that it is those divorced men, second wives and their children, already being crushed beneath the legal weight of a one-sided law, who will ask by what right you dare to question the dire need of further reforming divorce legislation.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. POWELL,

Coombe House,

Burles Cross,

Wendover,

Buckinghamshire.

Flowers Report economies

From Dr A. P. Miller

Sir, When my wife and I were

students, our medical school and

hospital were run by a retired

general and two lady secretaries.

Under the NHS the general was

replaced by an army.

Experience shows that administrators will not prune their own numbers to effect economies, and they are the people who decide what financial cuts are to be made.

Instead they close hospital beds, hospital wards and even hospitals. In 1970 the average number of NHS beds in England was 423,621. In 1978 (the latest figure available) the number was 369,235.

We must get our priorities right.

A hospital bed is an essential unit in the hospital service. There are other less essential parts in hospital, not connected with the patients' actual treatment, which should suffer from cutbacks first, before resorting to the disastrous step of closing hospital beds.

A directive should be issued by

the Minister, specifically stating the areas where cuts should be made in the hospital service. If this is not done, we will remain saddled with a costly administrative structure controlling fewer and fewer hospitals.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW MILLER,

Hetherstall,

Benson,

Oxford.

Priorities in BBC cuts

From Mr D. A. Hearn and

Mr K. Ashton

Sir, The cuts in the BBC's orchestras, on which public debate is concentrated, form only part of much wider cuts proposed by the Corporation. The worst hit areas are regional television and radio, and local radio. Regional radio will disappear altogether. The regional television stations will lose one of their two weekly opt-out programmes. Output from the existing local radio stations will be reduced to ten hours a day. Schools broadcasting in Scotland will disappear and will be cut in England in both television and radio.

The BBC's strategy is to concentrate resources on its network television and radio services from London. It seems prepared to allow its non-metropolitan roots to wither and to cut back on its educational

and cultural activity. This is a betrayal of its charter obligations.

It is a corollary of free choice that its exercise sometimes involves balancing private preference against wider considerations and responsibilities: such choice is not always easy and few would deny that the choice before Olympic athletes is a particularly difficult one. Nevertheless those who do decide not to go, of their own volition and as a matter of principle, will be seen to be making real personal sacrifice: that cannot but immensely enhance the respect in which they will be held, the effect of their protests and the comfort it will bring to those suffering from Communist tyranny, whether within or without the legitimate boundaries of the Soviet Union. Would that be no compensation?

Yours faithfully,

D. A. HEARN,

General Secretary,

Association of Broadcasting and

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

ck markets
Index 429.9, down 3.3
Gilt 64.10, down 0.24

ring
795, down 1.85 cents
x 72.0, down 0.3

lar
x 89.3, up 0.4

ld
, down \$24

ney
h sterling 173.18
h Euro 5 181.19
h Euro 5 181.19

IN BRIEF

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market

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led the group's share
in the Kingdom market
from the level of 15 per cent
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to be one of the
a 2 per cent drop
in of imported cars
during February.
ng to BII's figures,
Austin Morris and
over Triumph cars
last three weeks of
speed 21.5 per cent of
t. private car and van
month were 144,574—
of them going to
manufacturers com-
th 60 per cent in

looks at St Piran
cover panel met for
yesterday to dis-
controversial share
n troubled tin mining
Piran. It is under-
whether the group
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led by Mr J. J.
s Far East financier.

falls
lar rebounded in cur-
markets yesterday, be-
cause of firming
interest rates. The-
ropped sharply to
against the dollar, 1.85
n on the day.

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car stretch cover
those share dealings
nary last year are
investigation by the
hange.

financial news, page 20

delays action
has decided not to
disciplinary moves
ending figures in the
dictate affair until the
ave decided on legal
brought by various
members.

expanding
is to build a new fac-
the location has not
decided. Herr Eber-
Kuendheim, BMW
said at the opening
y £7.5m import centre
N (GB) at Bracknell.

for resigning
Neil is to sign a £14m
with Westinghouse
id Signal Co next week
part in the resigning
ord-Brighton line.

comes down
New York Stock Ex-
the Dow Jones aver-
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5. The SDR was 1.2675.
the dollar, and 0.58067.
the pound.

can surplus
Africa had a 956m rand
trade surplus in
y, with imports of
and exports of R1,820m.

production up
e vehicle production in
re 16.8 per cent to
from 780,000 in Janu-

Mr Nott tells top US officials of concern on steel anti-dumping suit

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 21

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, met top administration officials today and expressed concern about the US Steel Corporation's anti-dumping complaint against seven European countries, including Britain.

He discussed this and other trade matters and informed sources suggested that the Americans were aware of the possibility of European retaliation to any new trade protectionist measures and that they were concerned to support a free and fair trading system.

The Secretary of State was due to see Mr Philip Kretschmer, Secretary of Commerce, Mr Richard Cooper, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Mr Reuben Askew, Special Trade Representative.

The sources indicated that many officials believe the EEC Commission might be overreaching and exaggerating the dangers of a trade "war" developing.

They said some official statements from Brussels suggested there was a crisis developing in Atlantic trade relations because of steel developments and that neither European governments nor the United States government had this same feeling.

Visits cancelled: Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC's Commissioner for Industry, today cancelled a visit to Tunisia to be available for contact with the American administration over the weekend after

today's decision by US Steel, Peter Norman writes.

But Viscount Davignon's action was the only visible indication how seriously Brussels is viewing the American steel company's move. The Commission has apparently decided to play the anti-dumping suits coolly and avoid any steps that might be interpreted as encouraging a trade "war".

The US Steel suit is a significant threat to European exports to America because the products singled out in the complaint account for more than 50 per cent of deliveries.

The Commission also fears that it could threaten the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) consensus of 1977 on steel restructuring, where it was agreed that measures taken to aid the steel industry throughout the world should not endanger traditional international trading patterns.

Although US Steel's decision represents a defeat for the Carter administration in its attempt to ward off such anti-dumping action, the Commission would not like to see Washington scrap its "trigger price" system which is used to keep our cheap steel.

The Brussels argument is that such action could be interpreted as making US Steel's move legitimate and so encourage other steel companies to file anti-dumping suits.

World recession fears head OECD agenda

By Caroline Atkinson

Senior officials from seven main industrialized countries are meeting in Versailles this weekend to discuss their growing fears of a severe world recession.

The meeting, to be held under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was called at the suggestion of the United States.

Mr Charles Schultze, the chairman of President Carter's Council of Economic Advisors, is attending the meeting, as is Sir Douglas Webb, Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom Treasury.

Last weekend's United States package of anti-inflation measures, coupled with the American credit squeeze, has now made the prospects for the world economy look extremely bad.

It is widely thought that

there is no chance of avoiding a deep recession in the industrialized world. Western governments are increasingly concerned that the coming economic slowdown will be even more severe than that which followed the first round of oil price rises in 1973.

The jump in oil prices at the end of last year is expected to lead to more persistent surges in the price of exports, and in have a longer lasting depressing effect on the rest of the world.

Because many governments are now running large public sector deficits it is thought that there is little room for them to offset the deflationary impact of higher oil prices.

Officials at the meeting will prepare for the next economic summit in Venice in June. The seven nations represented are Britain, America, Canada, France, Italy, West Germany and Japan.

Directors call for tougher curbs on secondary action in new Bill

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Directors have joined the Confederation of British Industry in rejecting the Government's proposals to curb secondary strikes. The Institute of Directors has told Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, that it wants all forms of industrial disruption to be confined to the employer involved in the dispute.

Even at the risk of delaying the Employment Bill, which already contains clauses which would ban secondary picketing, the directors want the subsequent proposals on secondary action redrafted. As it stands, the proposed new clause would, the institute believes, continue to give legal immunity to trade unionists who take industrial action against any "first" customer or supplier, even though they are not themselves involved in the dispute.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, the institute's director general said in a letter to Mr Prior that the fear was that "because of the institute, the CBI also thinks

the continuation of legal immunity, such action might be seen as having received a stamp of legitimacy".

The letter was in response to a working paper issued by Mr Prior in which comments were requested by yesterday. In the light of these, he intends to insert a new clause in the Employment Bill now before Parliament.

The institute says it recognizes that it is the Government's desire to act now only on aspects of industrial relations legislation in urgent need of amendment.

However, it considers that the immunities envisaged in the proposals are too wide and it regrets that the present proposals have sought merely to reduce the scale of secondary industrial action rather than removing its legal immunity altogether.

It says that a "surer definition of a first supplier or customer" is required than at present proposed.

While not going as far as the institute, the CBI also thinks

that the fear was that "because of the institute, the CBI also thinks

PRICE CHANGES

L & Ross 10p to 30p
10p to 61p
10p to 24p
10p to 50p
10p to 50p
10p to 50p

Gibbs, A-
10p to 85p
10p to 55p
10p to 225p
10p to 515p

Hill
25p to 61p
4p to 30p
50c to 810c
10p to 30p
Liners
20p to 195p

Rio Tinto Zinc
23p to 345p
25c to 675c
South Crofty
4p to 32p
W Rand Cons
30c to 650c
Younglins Cpls
2p to 10p

THE POUND

Mark
2.05
30.40
71.25
2.62
13.25
9.82
5.92
4.28
89.00
11.35
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1985.00
565.00
4.68

Bank
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1.72
9.50
3.83
2.23
2.17
51.50

Bank
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3.83
2.23
2.17
51.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd.

Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Norway Kr
11.50
10.00

Portuguese Esc
112.50
106.50

South Africa Rd
1.85
1.72

Spain Pes
155.00
148.00

Sweden Kr
4.90
9.50

Switzerland Fr
4.05
3.83

USA S
1.23
2.17

Yugoslavia Dinar
51.50

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

A recent article in these pages on the subject of mortgages for flats, explained the difficulty of enforcing positive obligations, such as repairing covenants on the sale of freehold property. This is an important factor in deterring building societies from advancing money to help finance the purchase of freehold flats. The issue has drawn the wrath of reader Mr C. E. O'Brien.

He writes: "It is worth noting by way of contrast that throughout much of the Commonwealth and the United States of America, where broadly similar conditions prevail, the governments concerned have shown no reluctance to legislate to cure this anomaly since the movement for reform began in Australia in 1961.

"The legislation in general provides for what is known as a condominium or strata title. This would come into being as soon as

the owners of the property, intended to be turned into flats for sale, registered with the local land registry a plan showing in detail the proposed subdivision into individual units and those remaining areas which will be held by all the owners in common, for example, passages and stairs.

"When the plan is accepted by the registry, the owners automatically become a company for the purpose of managing the common property and they must ensure that those parts of the structure are properly administered in accordance with rules which are embodied in the legislation.

"Schemes of this kind have proved successful in practice. It is a pity that there is little reason at present to imagine that they are likely to make any significant impact on the English legal outlook which is traditionally resistant to novel thought."

Pre-Budget taxation

Deadline for those overseas trips

April 5 could be a crucial date for anybody who has been abroad for a significant length of time in 1979-80 or who intends to go overseas in the coming tax year. Any end-of-year tax round-up must cover, however briefly, the jungle of overseas residence, income and gains.

This really is a complicated subject involving a bewildering permutation of residence, ordinary residence and domicile with income, transfers and gains. Nevertheless, it is worth briefly showing a few warning lights and mentioning some of the problems and opportunities of living or working abroad.

If you are resident in the United Kingdom and spend more than 30 "qualifying" days (which are defined for these purposes) working overseas, you may be able to claim an allowance of 25 per cent with respect to those earnings: which is another way of saying that 25 per cent of those earnings are tax free.

Since the 1978 Finance Act, self-employed people as well as employees have been able to claim this allowance. If, for example, you earn £13,000 in the year and you spend 60 qualifying days outside the United Kingdom, the amount of income qualifying for the 25 per cent allowance would almost certainly be:

60 x £12,000 = £1,922

Of this £1,972, 25 per cent, that is £493, would be tax free. If your tax rate were 30 per cent this would be an effective tax saving of £148.

If you are close to the 30-day threshold needed in order to claim the 25 per cent allowance, but have not quite reached this level, you might consider whether you could bring forward that business trip which you intended to make later on in the spring so

that you can clock up those extra days by April 5.

Remember, you have to be outside the United Kingdom at midnight on any of the qualifying days and, for trips abroad of less than a week, each day must be substantially devoted to the business duties.

If you are going abroad, but you will not have a full time overseas employment, then the process of achieving this useful status of non-resident and not ordinarily resident in United Kingdom is likely to be more protracted and will not necessarily depend on mere absence for a complete tax year.

The Inland Revenue will want to see a clearer demonstration of your intention to become a genuinely foreign resident, for instance, by setting up your home abroad. You can come back to United Kingdom for occasional visits during a period of non-residence without affecting your status, but these visits should not average more than three months a year (with an absolute maximum of six months in any one year).

A word of warning to overseas readers who are already classed as "non-resident and not ordinarily resident" in the United Kingdom. Supposing you have United Kingdom accommodation which is available for your own use and at the same time you are not a full time employee overseas, you could lose your non-resident status for the entire tax year by just one day's visit here. So if you have not come back so far in 1979-80 but you simply must come back to United Kingdom soon, wait until after April 6.

Next week we shall all know the Chancellor's proposals giving us a few days for last minute action before April 5.

Danby Bloch and
Raymond Godfrey

Consequently, if you are considering an overseas tour of duty which is likely to start either in the spring or early summer of 1980, see whether you can bring forward the date of departure to before April 6.



Investor's week

Dividends up despite gloom

I cannot yet use that portentous phrase, sadder than owl-songs or the midnight blast: "I told you so," because this week the FT index only fell from 439.9 to 429.9. Yet market operators, suddenly turned sellers, have been upsetting all who will listen with stories of brokers putting their Horsham houses up for sale, of jobbers, the wholesalers of shares, unloading depreciating stock at any price, and of companies scheming cash calls on shareholders because banks were turning against them.

One or two people do have empty wallets. Only a week or two ago Siebens was 930p. Today they are little better than 500p. Australian mining issues such as Samantha have halved, annoying "investors" not only in London but in Wall Street and Hongkong too.

You are not so long way from 350 on the FT index. Or are we? The index has only to drop further 18 per cent.

One prophecy I avoid—

exactly when directors start cutting dividends as if tomorrow was already here. Few are yet listening to the voice of the Bank of England. This week it discussed the way in-

come-seeking managers of big

funds intimidate boardrooms into paying dividends they cannot easily afford.

It is always so easy—for a time—to postpone painful decisions. A company, talking to itself, is never short of permanent capital, just temporarily short of the ready stuff. Banks, saddled with responsibility of keeping industry afloat, are ready to oblige.

It is not as if the accountants who should know about these things had agreed on how to adjust for inflation to give the unshodden an idea of how money can flow out of a business when profits (in money terms) are rising, let alone dropping.

So one company after another, has openly lauded at rival schemes of inflation adjusting, and plausibly affirmed that they will comply when that is agreed.

The Bank of England warns us that present policies (including dear money) will persist. World interest rates may yet go higher. Factors close but in durable technology, bonds. Will the Chancellor help industry next Wednesday? There will be howls if he fails.

Peter Wainright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year 3	Year 5	Company	Change	Comment
127p	77p	Avana	5p to 119p	Bid gossip
900p	320p	Guthrie	40p to 805p	Same bid-hope
303p	170p	Muirhead	5p to 190p	Talk of Tyco bid
336p	148p	Tricentral	8p to 282p	Good annual figs
56p	32p	UDT	5p to 55p	Bid hopes
				Falls
150p	98p	Bowring CT	6p to 126p	Monop Commission ref fear
400p	218p	Furness Withy	5p to 38p	Fear of ref for Tung bid
334p	202p	Simon Engng	10p to 228p	Sector weak
118p	36p	Stone-Platt	6p to 38p	Loss: no final div
223p	85p	Stothert & P	21p to 85p	Loss: no interim

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Income bonds

Two more shopping days to go...

There are two shopping days left before Budget day if you want to take advantage of the attractive yields available on short-term income bonds.

It is widely assumed that these bonds will be axed in the Budget next week. And for once the axe will fall with the approval of the life assurance industry in general.

The Life Offices' Association has made no secret of the fact that it views these bonds with outright disapproval. Companies offering these bonds can afford to pay these returns, thanks in part to life assurance premium relief.

The LOA, wary that any government move against these bonds might affect the industry as a whole, is adamant that this relief was and is primarily designed for longer term contracts of 10 years or more.

Even if you don't actually pay tax you are still eligible for premium relief so you can take advantage of these yields. But you cannot add insult to injury by claiming the tax back on your investment if income is automatically paid net of basic rate tax back from the Revenue.

SHORT-TERM INCOME BONDS

Company	Minimum Investment	Term
1-year bonds		
Canterbury Life	£1,000	18.00%
Liberty Life	£500	18.01%
Property Equity and Life	£1,000	18.05%
Transinternational Life	£1,000	19.01%
Transnational Life	£1,000	18.25%
Windes Life	£500	18.05%
2-year bonds		
Liberty Life	£500	15.01%
Transinternational Life	£2,000	14.00%
Windes Life	£1,000	15.25%
Windes Life	£500	15.00%
<i>*Net of basic rate tax. **John life basis.</i>		

time. Skandia Life is closing its bond on Monday to make sure all administration is wound up before the Budget.

Also remember that these rates are not guaranteed and will alter with any change in the level of tax relief. The Chelmsford cellars may decide to cut the relief from its peak level of 17.5 per cent against a basic rate tax of 30 per cent.

At present there is a gentleman's agreement between the authorities and the life assurance industry that there will be some delay—probably a year—before such an announcement is made. So even if the one-year bonds are safe you might see a reduction in the yield on your two year bond from April next year.

Sylvia Morris

Need for a will • Undiscovered assets

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Eric Brunet, John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving

have now discovered certain other assets which he had previously overlooked. In addition to a small sum in a building society, I have come across some old savings certificates and uncashed social security vouchers. It seems hardly worth paying a solicitor to obtain probate and I was wondering if there was any alternative method of dealing with these outstanding items? (P. W. Hendon).

It is possible to obtain a grant of probate by personal application at your district probate registry without employing a solicitor, although a personal application does carry a slightly higher fee. However, if the items you mention are the only assets outstanding, there are statutory provisions to cover this situation. For example, payment may be made without the need to obtain a grant of probate or administration in the case of small sums due to deceased holders of government stock and loans or savings certificates. The same applies in the case of a deceased member of a building or friendly society, and also to social security benefits due to the deceased.

My stepfather has been dead eight months and his perfectly straightforward estate has yet to be cleared up by solicitors. Could you please tell me whether interest on the deceased's money held by solicitors belongs to the estate or to the solicitor? I am afraid my mother has the impression that they are spinning things out as long as possible (a) to earn interest for themselves, and (b) to enable them to charge a higher fee. (K.P. London).

The delay may not be the solicitors' fault so write to them requesting an explanation. In no circumstances are they entitled to retain interest earned on a client's money held by them, so ask them also what sums they

Consequently, you would be entitled to have paid over to you all the assets you mention, on presentation of the will with a copy of the death certificate. Initially send a photocopy of the will, certifying it as true and correct copy. If they insist on seeing the original, you can then send it by recorded delivery.

My sister has been separated from her husband for more than five years and was proposing to sue for divorce. He has now disappeared and her efforts to discover his new address have been unsuccessful. Does the law enable a person in her position to sue for divorce or can her husband prevent her so doing by remaining in hiding? (C.S. Cambridge).

Yes, the law does make provision for those in your sister's position to obtain divorce but the courts are reluctant to pronounce a decree and after personal status without a petition having been served on the respondent spouse. Every reasonable effort must be made to find the present whereabouts of the husband. It may be possible to locate him through the DHSS who will forward letters and, if your sister is claiming maintenance for herself or children, the court may request the DHSS or Inland Revenue to divulge the husband's address. Failing all else, an application for substituted service or for leave to dispense with service may be made.

The only fine in this

is that there are still in the village that Allied Elderberry. I am on the cards. Of course, it is quite impossible that both houses Kew is not only quite So since both the company and shop on the investment, if there is indeed a club's own shareholding, a becomes a focus for the two of them. But if they are going to each other's throat, industrial disputes will be a

One would have been in the remotest kind of distance from the vicar's residence. Basil is a total contrast when it comes to between him and his wife. I take Rosemary quite seriously. I really do wish she who was of our Basil confines himself to the state of the church.

Brian Thift is one of the local manager of the Imperturbable. As far as the rest of the community is concerned, he is absolutely hopeless. Pluckitt is so self-satisfied that he cannot be believed at that we have not done anything with his pre-clerk Building Society is quite astonished. He does not know how a manager to tell stamp post office; she has t of an earwig.

Sam Spender, he of the one gathering, while officer Scrubbs, chairman of the local football club, was recently needed to stop the riots at Dartford, so neither of them ever Basic the committee seems to be a constant source of trouble, with the only true friend, beloved Agatha Christie, although he is boring that it would not wake him up.

So one soldiers on, with lonely fashion definitely in need of a support. I have a slight of doom about the who when it comes to this. This morning when down for breakfast Poggo seized the Financial Times and savaged it to pieces.

She hadn't touched a mail—none of the bills even a horrid letter from Inland Revenue. All had been intelligent and she so that most. Movie critic as well, like Bob Beckman's Old Sheepdog William of O'Farrell picked shares himself a fortune a few years ago. After all, he can Cornwall and we now ourselves living next to a

so maybe it's something with water.

Anyway, when I saw the cause of pink all over the thinking a distinct frisson, a kind of initiating a co-operative Poggo's own committee.

Wouldn't it be fabulously the Hound of the Baskerville once more a great be reconnected with—but in a different and more intimate.

Francis Kins

Fixed interest investment

Setting money aside for future tax bills

The interest rate paid on certificates of tax deposit is now 17.0 per cent, guaranteed for two years—one of the highest-yielding investments on the market.

These certificates are a useful way to plan for your future tax liabilities. They are open to companies and individuals and can be used to pay any type of tax except Value Added Tax or employee Paye.

The minimum deposit is £2,000 for starters. You can then add to this in £500 lots.

You can buy certificates from your local tax collector's office, and they earn interest immediately. This rate is reviewed every two years during the six-year life of the certificate.

When you get your tax bill, you simply send the bill and the certificate to the tax inspectors who will inform you if you owe them any money or

send you another certificate for any excess amount paid.

There is one drawback. If you overestimate the amount of tax you need to pay and think you'll treat yourself with the extra, the interest rate is reduced to 13.5 per cent. You only get the full 17 per cent if you use the money towards tax payments.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

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The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly Index of average prices of second-hand houses (Seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
June	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
September	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
December	121.1	17,866	21.1	10.7	2.4
1978 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,763	24.6	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	23.6	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	135.2	20,084	50.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	26.1	19.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	26.2	16.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	26.0	14.1	6.6
September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5	5.6
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,339	26.3	11.2	4.3
December	151.0	22,291	24.8	9.6	3.8
1980 January	154.2	22,754	25.5	8.2	3.1
February	156.2	23,052	22.7	7.6	3.2

Average regional prices of second-hand houses		
	February £	January £
North	17,483	17,334
Yorks and Humber	16,114	16,067
North-west	18,127	18,425
East Midlands	17,785	17,578
West Midlands	20,102	20,235
East Anglia	21,545	21,606
Wales	19,049	18,619
South-west	24,080	25,849
South-east	30,168	29,964
Greater London	30,712	30,124
Northern Ireland	21,406	20,977
Scotland	19,638	20,316
		% change over 3 months ended November
		4.9
		3.8
		-1.5
		3.2
		3.1
		4.0
		2.3
		2.4
		0.9
		-0.8
		-4.1

One feature of the housing market that is not revealed by the tables published this month is the apparent widening of the price differential between second-hand and new houses. The average, unadjusted price of new houses—based on a three-months moving average to February—is £26,745.

The figure for the three months ended in February is about 3 per cent higher than for the three months ended in January. The increase over the six months period is 11.6 per cent and the new house price index shows a rise of 6.3 per cent since its launch in December 1977.

Unlike the previous house price boom of 1972-73 when second-hand house prices set the pace, the 1978-79 boom saw new house prices maintain their traditional lead.

House prices in the regions confirm local evidence that there is little movement in the Greater London area, the South-east and South-west. The setback in Scotland, a particularly strong market last year, is partly seasonal.

Margaret Stone

taxman is at fault

ing tax, more particularly pensioners, allowed to write off

part of the Select Committee on the Parliamentarian for Administration only endorsed the campaign for a 10% tax relief for taxpayers who sinned against than it also suggests even

and Revenue, which is making reparation

ers caused through error less than ten go up to recently the threshold up to an waive tax debts.

last year, it was

anyone earning £10,000 would have the tax bill reduced

a four point scale 0 where write-offs

are write-offs

to recover the amount involved from the motorist who caused the damage, or his insurers. Some insure "off the road" loss of use" cover, a special form of insurance, paying for up to a month, but long enough to obtain some spare parts for certain foreign cars, or if your car has been specially adapted because of their changing circumstances and multiple sources of income.

The select committee recommended that all pensioners should be allowed an extra concession of having £2,000 of their income disregarded before being subject to the threshold limits.

Acknowledging the force of this argument, the select committee still believed that a "token reprieve" should be available to taxpayers as "compensation for the inconvenience to which they have been put". It recommended a 10 per cent reduction for those with incomes between £10,000-£15,000.

MS

en taxman gets it wrong

The select committee has recommended in its first report of this session that the threshold of £4,000 should be raised to £5,000, the average level of most industrial savings, and that it should also be increased.

It also recommended greater tolerance higher up the income scale. The Inland Revenue has always argued that wealthy taxpayers far from being the victims of Inland Revenue error were the beneficiaries; they had the use of the unpaid tax and did not suffer hardship when finally asked to account for it.

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insurance

10 foot the car hire bill?

for you to hire a car if the road is off, accident? All too buck stops with you, we're convinced that the as caused by the next another motorist, you claim against him. Drivers are prepared to such a recovery, they may charge a may find that you done better to have solicited in the first

try to avoid paying to third parties. So ask the other insurers if they will cost of hiring a subar, they may simply hat you forward them when you get it and consider it—which ans that they will try it if they can.

than run the risk of he whole cost yourself decide to "make do" lic transport, help from the like. Normally, insurers will be no art from one or two small insurers agree to hire charges up to the, the real exception accident. As a course, its comprehensive provides for the of a Godfrey Davis hire our own car has been or stolen and there claim under the policy need to hire a car for a discount will be off the normal rate, course, you may be able

the roadside repair service provided by the Automobile Association and the Royal Automobile Club as "insurance"; but it is, and both those august

organizations are authorized insurers.

This year, the National Breakdown Recovery Club is not confining itself to picking up stranded cars and drivers after an accident or breakdown, but is competing directly with the big motoring organizations in providing a roadside breakdown service through local garages. That, also, counts as insurance.

There are, however, other causes which can keep you off the road—such as a disqualification from driving. For some years, St Christopher Motorists' Security Association has been providing members not only with loss of use insurance, but also certain cover if they should be disqualified from driving as a result of three speeding offences or a drink/driving conviction.

There is no question of being able to insure against a fine in those circumstances. Instead, St Christopher will pay for the cost of employing a driver—so that a member can, at least, remain mobile. While the cost of the driver will be met up to a certain figure (dependent on the chosen level of subscription), obviously having to make prior arrangements with a driver is not as convenient as being able to drive yourself where you like.

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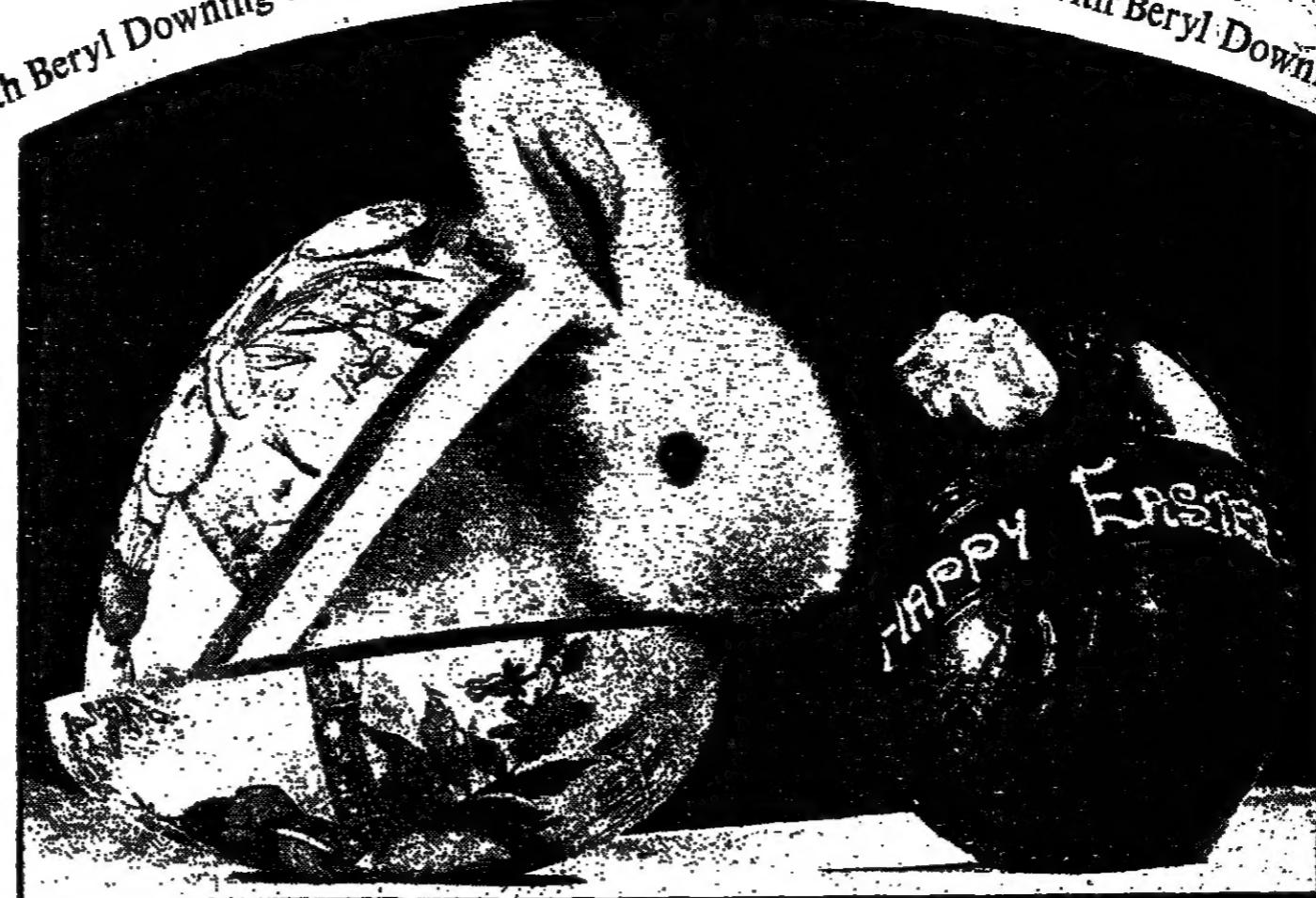
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Shoparound with Beryl Downing



Left: Appealing fluffy rabbit

7 in. long, £2.06 (35p p&p) in a

paper mache egg, £1.58 (not

postable) from The Tree House,

237 Kensington High Street,

London W8. Chocolate egg, 7 in.

high containing hand-decorated

chocolates, £3.50 from Clare's, 3

Park Road, Baker Street, London

NW1. Photograph by Brian Harris

Below: Traditional Ukrainian

eggs hand-drawn by Marta and

Olena Jenkals. Details in columns

3 and 4. Photograph by Trevor Sutton

Below, far left: Flowered egg,

2½ in long, and kitten egg, £2.95

each (25p p&p) both re-

marked by Joan Nicholson

Design Centre shop,

market, London SW1. Screen-

printed china egg

one of a selection 7 in.

Mews, 1-7 Davies Mews

W1. Photograph by Trevor Sutton

Chocolate Easter eggs, I have discovered, were all a diabolical plot by the Dutch and the French to make us lose our teeth. It was they who at the beginning of the century invented a mechanical way of producing hundreds of chocolate eggs in the time it previously took to make one, no doubt the invention of a brilliant military mind working on the principle that if an army marches on its stomach, guns that cannot chew bully beef will soon produce total capitulation.

This endent cordiale, whatever its real historical associations, did have the effect of causing the demise, or at least terminal illness, of our traditional contribution to the world's folk art of decorating eggs for Easter.

Our version, practised mainly in the north of England, was known as paste-eggs or "Pascels". They were made by pressing flowers, scraps of fabric and threads against the shells and dipping them

into boiling water: this forced the colour out of the materials, leaving the shape of the flowers stained on to the shells. Children and groups of itinerant actors known as "pace-eggers" used to go round begging coloured eggs to play their Easter games.

In Western Europe it was not until the twelfth century that the Benedictine Ovorum was introduced, authorizing the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter. (My source is Venetia Newall's *An Egg at Easter* published by Routledge & Kegan Paul.) But decorated clay eggs dating back to 3000 BC have been excavated in the Ukraine.

Designs based on those ancient pagan life-symbols are still being used today by a young London-based teacher whose parents came to this country as refugees from the Ukraine during the second World War. She is Marta Jenkals and she can be seen practising her craft at Barkers, Kensington High Street, London, W8, on March 25, 26, 27 and April 1 and 2 between 12 and 4 pm.

Her technique, traditionally handed down from mother to daughter, is like this. The design is drawn on to the shell with a nib dipped in warmed wax, and the egg is then dipped into the first colour.

The artist works from the lighter to the darkest colours and finally wipes off all the wax, revealing all the different layers of the design. The eggs are whole, not

blown. The idea of a pretty egg getting badder and badder is particularly appealing, but all that happens to an elderly egg, as to an elderly egg-head, is that the water content evaporates, leaving a dried up powder inside. The thing to avoid is keeping them in direct sunlight, which could cause them to explode.

Illustrated are six eggs hand-drawn by Marta and her mother, Olena Jenkals. The lobster, in red on black, is one of the oldest Ukrainian designs and the sun, in white on red, is a copy of an archaeological egg.

Horses or reindeer (right) are symbols of strength. The abstract design in white on black (top) is a symbol of the earth mother lifting her arms to the sun, asking for a good harvest, and the complicated multi-coloured design (left) is the most modern. Next to it, an original design by Olena showing wooden Hutsul churches in the Carpathian mountains. The simpler the design, the older the egg.

Many of the designs are traditional. As Marta says, "I am not an artist but an artisan, reproducing folk art. If young people of my generation don't do it, who will?"

Those who do not feel sufficiently confident to tackle such an artistic project themselves might like to copy some of the Scandinavian traditions on display at Barkers. One particularly attractive idea, Benke Hoje of Scandicraft, tells me, is to gather budding branches, put them in vases and hang them with hand-painted eggs and yellow chickens. Then, as the buds open with the warmth of the house, you get an enchanting effect of nature playing the interior decorator.

Incidentally, if you need to occupy itchy little fingers during the Easter holidays a coloured poster called the ABC of Eggs might keep them busy for a while. It shows how to get an egg inside a milk bottle, tells you how to blow eggs for decorating and gives the sort of information that will be invaluable to junior Masterminds—the greatest height for instance, from which fresh eggs have been dropped from a helicopter without breaking. The answer is 560ft. You can get a copy of this chart by sending a stamped addressed envelope, at least 61in by 4½in, to The British Egg Information Service, 37 Panton Street, London SW1Y 4EW.

If your talent does not extend beyond painting and decorating anything but the walls, there are plenty of egg-shaped gifts around which would make charming presents if you are spending the holiday with relations or friends. Bromley have real eggs, hand decorated by Joan Nicholson, at £2.95.

The two illustrated are available, plus 25p p&p from The Design Centre Shop, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SY.

For anyone whose budget runs to more than a couple of pounds for an Easter trinket, Mapin and Webb branches have egg-shaped paperweights

in hand-blown glass, a blue gancian or a white suspended above flowers of daff, £2.50; and Mews, 1-7 Davies Mews, W1, have a delightful antique egg, a Victorian china egg, a transfer print of a one side and a cat on the other, £2.

If you are watching children's teeth, choose animal and present purely decorative. The Tree House has five paper mache chicks, £4.50 to £1.58 and a 1½ in. of chickens, ducklings and hens to go inside. The not negotiable, but the so you could order those illustrated and decorated cards bought locally, branches of W. H. Smith, 3 in. sizes at 35p, 4½ in. sizes at 60p.

But if you are dead set on a chocolate egg, least give your mother a funeral. Clare's have highly handsome eggs in their hand-made chocolate. Sizes are from 4oz at £2.50 for 5lb and can be had with a name or a message. These are not available, but Clare's willed cardboard eggs fill their home-made chocolate all parts of the world from the £1.50 plus postage appropriate to the country of destination address is Clare's C Ltd, 3, Park Road, London, NW1. Telephone 01-262 2106.

Below: Double-duty beachwear—the elastic-topped skirt can be worn full length with the bikini top or as a strapless short dress. In black, bright blue or cyclamen pleated nylon or in black or bright jade with a white flock spot. Sizes 10 to 16 from major branches of Marks and Spencer. Bikini, £6.99, skirt £9.99—both versions look particularly glamorous in black.

Photograph by Peter Alderson



Right: Hen-shaped egg basket 8 in long is lined to keep coloured boiled eggs warm on Easter morning—or can be used as a container for fresh eggs in the kitchen. £1.54 from Graham and Green, 7 Elgin Crescent, London, W11. Cheeky chicken egg cosy, £1.10 (19p p&p) and a pair of cockerel cosies in felt 90p (19p p&p) by Scandicraft at Barkers, Kensington High Street, London, W8.

Right: Small bean bag bunny 3½ in long with printed cotton ears, £1.47 (21p p&p) from The Tree House, 237 Kensington High Street, London W8. fluffy nylon chicken 40p (19p p&p) woolly chicken £2.05 (19p p&p) both by Scandicraft at Barkers, Kensington High Street, London W8.

To lazy people like me, conservation of energy means curling up with a good book when I should be out basking in the sun. Conservation is such a worthy word I have to translate it before it has any relevance but, with prices of fuel going up and up and up, the translation is simple, if long-winded. It reads "being able to pay the gas bills next winter".

So you may like to know that British Gas, the Department of Energy and 15 manufacturers have got together to run a series of demonstrations throughout the country. They are calling them housewarming parties and their aim is to show various ways of saving fuel and money without freezing to death in the process.

There will be a series of demonstrations on double glazing, insulation, central heating, advice on loans for energy-saving home improvements and kitchen planning, even on how to lay a good floor to exclude draughts. There will

If you have an enthusiastic young needlewoman in the house, another idea for padding out the Easter holidays would be to buy her an easy cross-stitch sampler of the type so much sought after in antique shops and saferooms.

The one shown is by Clover Kits, set up by Carol Stephens and Lynne Alderson because they enjoy sewing but rarely found pretty kits in the shops. They researched the whole subject of samplers before designing this one, taking their motifs from authentic eighteenth-century designs.

also be someone from the Department of Energy trying to explain the reasons for the proposed price rises, but you can take a nap at that point, as you won't believe it anyway.

The shows began in London this week and move to Leices-

The box showing the name is left empty on the kit so that the person making it can sew in a baby's name and date of birth or a marriage date. Instructions for this are included, and each kit contains enough stranded cotton to make the sampler and a tapestry needle. There is no need for special and expensive framing, because the kits are designed to fit standard 16in by 20in frames.

Each kit costs £8.50, including postage and packing, from Clover Kits, 59, St Marks Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

ter next Wednesday and Thursday, then to Cardiff on April 1 and 2 and on to Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Oxford, Leeds, Brighton, Luton, Manchester, Birmingham, London, NW1. Please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Students are notoriously neglectful of the basic rules of nutrition, being rather more preoccupied with loftier academic matters, such as the level of their grants, and the height of the walls. They are likely to have to scale as a matter of honour if not, these days, of necessity.

If such a one is yours and you are fearful of his or her ultimate survival on a diet of beer, baked beans and Breyers, why not suggest a four-day basic cooking course in the vacation?

Janet Laurence, who moved to Somerset from London 18 months ago, has always had an interest in cooking, fostered by her Swedish mother, and a discussion with a friend who was desperately trying to find a course for her teenage son developed into the foundation of Mrs Laurence's Basic Cooking Courses.

They cover the making of soups, meat dishes, sauces, mayonnaise, fruit, vegetables, rice, pastry, desserts and one-pot meals, and all involve practical work by the students as well as demonstrations. Everything is

sensibly geared to the sort of dishes young people would want and could afford to make—with variations. They learn, for instance, how to make a basic spaghetti bolognese and then how to layer it with pasta and cheese sauce to make a lasagne.

To ensure individual tuition

no more than eight students are taken at a time. Each course starts on Sunday afternoon and finishes on Thursday afternoon, with four nights' accommodation and full board included in the £85 course fee.

The trouble

says Mrs Laurence, is that schools with the most marvelous facilities tend to let the non-academic children learn cooking, so the brighter ones start their university or bed-sit lives relying on a quick fry-up at the local take-away.

You do not need

to be placed

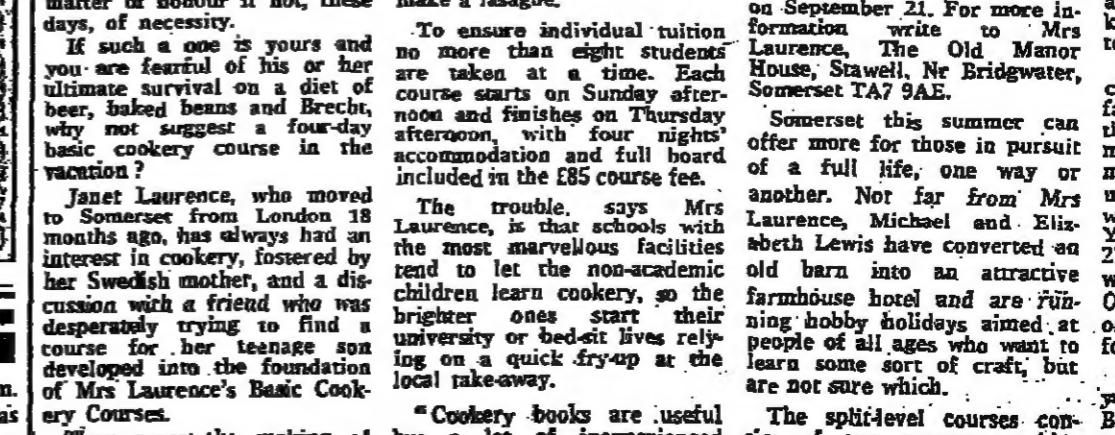
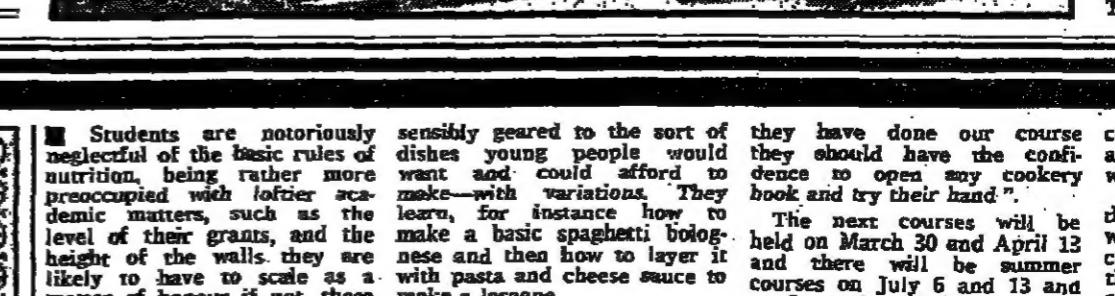
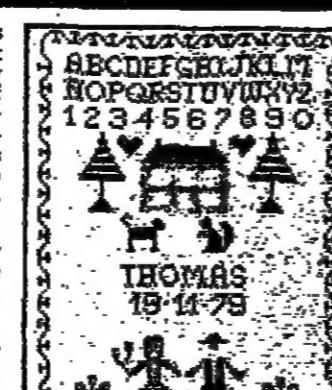
can sample each craft a day of each before which appeals most.

They can then come to the autumn and spend a week gaining a "basic competence" in the their choice, so that a basis for a hobby will keep them occupied

for weeks. The two weeks cost £100, including accommodation, food and dinner, and the first week is £50, plus materials; but there is a discount to the second until the end of the first which you pay the

You can start on April 27 or May 4 and end with September 14, or October 6, or you can on the same autumnal follow-up next spring.

You do not need to be placed you can be placed in Bridgwater, and any transport and within reason, one More information Michael Lewis, 15 Gleinstone, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 9AE.



The split-level courses consist of two separate weeks. Expert tutors are available to teach spinning, weaving and textile art, drawing and painting, pottery, pattern drafting, dressmaking and needlecraft; during the first week students

IE & GARDEN

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£790
£600

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The blood of Christ, who
died for us, is the best sacrifice
to God through the eternal
spirit. Let us not, then, forget
that we do our service to the
living God. Hebrews 9: 14

11. S.

BIRTHS

ADAM—On 12th March, in Edinburgh, to Elizabeth and Kelvin
McDonald, a son, David, born
at Dorey in Linda-Jane and Martin
Graves' first marriage.

ARMER—On March 20th at Mill
Circus, London, to John and
Cecilia (née Gregory) a daughter,
Christie Karen.

BROWN—On 19th March, in
Sarah (née New) Peter and James
Hannah (née Parker) a son,

DEISTRADAS—On March 13th
to John and Barbara, a daughter.

FRASER—On 16th March, 1980,
in Port Vale, New Brighton, to Joan
and Paul, a daughter, Sophie
Elizabeth.

GRIFFIN—On March 18th, 1980,
in Bognor Regis, to Philip and Mary,

Brighton, a son, Peter.

HARRIS—On 18th March, 1980,
in Edinburgh, to John and Barbara,

Elizabeth, a son, John, born at
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